

Stranded in Space, Grounded in Faith
Astronaut Barry Wilmore's Biblical Faith
Summary from Bible Museum Lecture, November 20, 2025

(Since many of the photos Astronaut Wilmore used in his powerful presentation were copyrighted, we were not able to video his presentation. This is a summary of his remarks)

Astronaut Barry Wilmore began his reflections on his experience in space noting that what matters is what is true, and the Bible is the only place that holds absolute truth. As Hebrews 4:12 states, “the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

On Jun 5, 2024, Astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams launched to the International Space Station (ISS) on the Boeing *Starliner*, the spacecraft designed to transport crews to the ISS. During the flight, two thrusters failed. Though they did dock at the ISS, it became clear the *Starliner* would not be able to transport them back to earth, What had been intended as an eight day mission on the ISS turned into an almost nine month stay on the Space Station. When the thrusters failed, Astronaut Wilmore rested in the sovereignty of God, knowing He is in control of all things.

With his foundations firmly set in God's Word, Wilmore had perfect peace. When it at first appeared the *Starliner* might not be able to dock at the Space Station and he might die, Wilmore had no fear of death. Romans 8:1-2 told him that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.” Isaiah 46:9-10 assured him, “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; *I am* God, and there is none like me; ¹⁰ declaring the end

from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not *yet* done; saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

When a reporter later asked Wilmore what was his take away from his prolonged experience in space, he replied, “Jesus Christ our Lord is working out all things for His glory and our good.” He had earlier learned this truth as a navy pilot on an aircraft carrier experiencing many dangers.

Realizing the *Starliner* would not be able to take him back to earth, Wilmore settled in for a long stay on the Space Station. Psalm 46:1-3 became a source of strength, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, And though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas; ³ Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, Though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof.”

Numerous Scriptures continued to give Astronaut Wilmore endurance as 2024 turned to 2025:

Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God is tried: He is a shield unto them that take refuge in him.”

I Kings 8:61, “Let your heart therefore be perfect with Jehovah our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”

Colossians 3:23-24, “whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord ye shall receive the recompense of the inheritance: ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Isaiah 45:18, “For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else.”

March 18, 2025, Astronauts Wilmore and Williams came back to earth on the *SpaceX Dragon* capsule. Throughout his experience in space, Williams had Jesus Christ as Lord of his life. Jesus willingly came to the world to pay for our sins. He was the perfect sacrifice, without sin or blemish. Only Jesus was worthy to satisfy God’s wrath for our sin. His

resurrection showed His sacrifice was accepted by God. When we trust Christ for salvation, we have a desire to obey and live for Him. People should see Christ in us:

I John 2:3-6, “ hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: ⁶ he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.”

Astronaut Wilmore is a powerful example of reflecting Christ by his obedience to Him and following His Word.