

Afraid Of Death?

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Introduction: All of us think about death at one time or another, however, no one enjoys talking about death. Most seek to avoid the subject of death, yet all of us will face death at some point in our lives. Some are confronted with death when a friend or loved one dies. Others when we ourselves face death. One thing is certain, the older we get the more we are aware of death. Few individuals have any answers or solutions to the issue of death. All of us know that death robs us of life. It is because of this, many individuals fear death.

Are you afraid of death? There are a several facts that God wants you to know about death. In reviewing these facts, you have the opportunity to change the effect of death on you.

1. THE REASONS FOR DEATH

Why do people die? There are two main reasons every individual will face death.

A. We have inherited death.

Adam's sin brought judgment on all people. God's Word states, "...Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men..." (Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21).

B. We bring death to ourselves.

All of us sin, and thus our sin brings the judgment of death. God's Word states, "...Death spread to all men, because all sinned," (Rom. 5:17).

2. THE RESULTS OF DEATH

Death involves more than just the stopping of physical life. Death terminates our "physical" our existence on earth. However, there is more to death than just the body "losing life."

A. Death harms the body, unless you know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word states that in death the body is harmed in three ways, "...The body is sown in corruption... it is sown in dishonor... it is sown in weakness...." (1 Cor. 15:42-43).

B. Death brings endless spiritual pain and suffering, unless you know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word states, "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God... And the dead were judged according to their works.... And death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to their works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death," (Rev. 20:12-14). "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death," (Rev. 21:8).

C. Death separates the individual from God and His grace, unless you know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word states, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into my kingdom of heaven.... Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and

in thy name have cast out demons and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, you that work iniquity," (Matt. 7:21-23).

3. THE POWER OF DEATH

Death has power over the life of those who have not yet died. Death is working upon life daily.

A. Death is the enemy to life, for those who do not know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word states, "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death," (1 Cor. 15:26).

B. Death causes bondage to fear, for those who do not know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word states, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself (Christ) likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had power of death, that is the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage," (Heb. 2:14-15).

C. Death rules over life, for those who do not know Jesus as Savior.

God's Word says, "For if by one man's offense death reigned..." (Rom. 5:17).

4. THE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH

Death is present all around us and in a certain sense has an effect on life.

A. Within life, there is a fruit that is associated with death.

God's Word says, "For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear the fruit of death." (Rom. 7:5).

B. Within life there is a mind set that is associated with death.

God's Word says, "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace," (Rom. 8:6).

C. Within life there is a sorrow that is associated with death.

God's Word says, "For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death," (2 Cor. 7:16; Mat. 26:38).

D. Within life there is persecution that is associated with death .

God's Word states, "For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you," (Rom. 8:36; 2 Cor. 4:11).

5. THE UNCERTAINTY OF DEATH

Death can happen prematurely and at any time.

A. Sinful people can cause another's death.

God's Word says that Jesus' death was not caused by Himself, "And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death," (Acts 13:28). Paul also caused other's to die, (Acts 26:10).

B. Living sinfully can cause our death.

God's Word states, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die..." (Rom. 8:13). "There is a sin that leads to death..." (1 John 5:16-17).

6. THE SOLUTION TO DEATH

Death has been resolved for those who have accept Jesus as their Savior.

A. Christ's death destroyed death.

God's Word states, "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel," (2 Tim. 1:10).

B. Christ's death destroyed the one who had power over death.

God's Word states, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he (Christ) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil," (Heb. 2:14).

C. Christ's death paid the debt of our sins and removed the judgment of death.

God's Word states, "...We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..." (Rom. 5:10).

D. Christ's death provided abundant grace and righteousness for those who face death.

God's Word states, "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ," (Rom. 5:17).

7. THE VICTORY OVER DEATH

Only those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior through faith, have victory over death. Notice the following victory.

A. Death cannot separate the believer from God's love.

God's Word states, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor death, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom. 8:38).

B. Death cannot separate the believer from God.

God's Word states, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord," (2 Cor. 5:8).

C. Death has no sting for the believer.

God's Word states, "O death where is thy sting? O grave where is they victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Cor. 15:55, 57).

D. Death is a transition to rest for the believer.

God's Word says that for the believer the body is merely at "sleep" and the soul and spirit have not perished, (1 Cor. 11:30; 15:6,18,20,51).

Conclusion: God's Word gives the believer comfort when facing death. However, those who do not know Christ in a personal way, are repulsed by death, (2 Cor. 2:16).