

**NO FEAR  
OF DEATH**



**What life  
teaches us  
about death**

**Age 0 – How'd I get here?**

**Age 3 – Where's my cat?**

**Age 5 – What if?**

**Age 8 – Death's first real sting**

**Age 10 – War's no game**

**Age 18 – I won't live forever**

**Age 25 – The fate of the earth**

**Age 28-57 – Is this all there is?**

**What God's  
Word teaches  
us about death**

## **9 Bible Promises To Hold On To:**

- 1. You can face death without fear.**
- 2. When we die, our spirit and soul go to be home with the Lord.**
- 3. Believers will dwell with God forever.**
- 4. We have a home in heaven.**
- 5. God has a future for us far superior to our present life.**

- 6. The death of a believer is precious to God.**
- 7. Believers belong to the Lord of the universe.**
- 8. Believers are citizens of heaven.**
- 9. After their physical death, believers gain eternal life.**

## *1 Corinthians 15 – “On This We Stand”*

<sup>1</sup> Friends, let me go over the Message of Good News with you one final time – this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand <sup>2</sup> and by which your life has been saved. (I'm assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you're in this for good and holding fast.)

3 The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; 4 that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; 5 that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, 6 and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died);

7 that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; 8 and that he finally presented himself alive to me. 9 It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God's church right out of existence.

## *Don't Waste God's Grace and Gifts!*

**10** But because God was so gracious, so very generous, here I am. And I'm not about to let his grace go to waste. Haven't I worked hard trying to do more than any of the others? Even then, my work didn't amount to all that much. It was God giving me the work to do, God giving me the energy to do it. **11** So whether you heard it from me or from those others, it's all the same: We spoke God's truth and you entrusted your lives.

## *Christ's Resurrection is the Key*

**12** Now, let me ask you something profound yet troubling. If you became believers because you trusted the proclamation that Christ is alive, risen from the dead, how can you let people say that there is no such thing as a resurrection? **13** If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ. **14** And face it - if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors.

15 Not only that, but we would be guilty of telling a string of barefaced lies about God, all these affidavits we passed on to you verifying that God raised up Christ - sheer fabrications, if there's no resurrection.

16 If the dead can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead. 17

And if Christ wasn't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever.

18 It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and resurrection, because they're already in their graves. 19 If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. 20 But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. 21 There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man.

22 Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ. 23 But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with him at his Coming, 24 the grand consummation when, after crushing the opposition, he hands over his kingdom to God the Father. 25 He won't let up until the last enemy is down - 26 and the very last enemy is death!

27 As the psalmist said, "He laid them low, one and all; he walked all over them." When Scripture says that "he walked all over them," it's obvious that he couldn't at the same time be walked on. 28 When everything and everyone is finally under God's rule, the Son will step down, taking his place with everyone else, showing that God's rule is absolutely comprehensive – a perfect ending!

29 Why do you think people offer themselves to be baptized for those already in the grave? If there's no chance of resurrection for a corpse, if God's power stops at the cemetery gates, why do we keep doing things that suggest he's going to clean the place out someday, pulling everyone up on their feet alive? 30 And why do you think I keep risking my neck in this dangerous work?

31 I look death in the face practically every day I live. Do you think I'd do this if I wasn't convinced of your resurrection and mine as guaranteed by the resurrected Messiah Jesus? 32 Do you think I was just trying to act heroic when I fought the wild beasts at Ephesus, hoping it wouldn't be the end of me? Not on your life! It's resurrection, resurrection, always resurrection, that undergirds what I do and say, the way I live.

If there's no resurrection, "We eat, we drink, the next day we die," and that's all there is to it.<sup>33</sup> But don't fool yourselves. Don't let yourselves be poisoned by this anti-resurrection loose talk. "Bad company ruins good manners."<sup>34</sup> Think straight. Awaken to the holiness of life. No more playing fast and loose with resurrection facts. Ignorance of God is a luxury you can't afford in times like these. Aren't you embarrassed that you've let this kind of thing go on as long as you have.

<sup>35</sup> Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this 'resurrection body' look like?" <sup>36</sup> If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. <sup>37</sup> We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a "dead" seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant.

38 You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different. 39 You will notice that the variety of bodies is stunning. Just as there are different kinds of seeds, there are different kinds of bodies – humans, animals, birds, fish - each unprecedented in its form.

40 You get a hint at the diversity of resurrection glory by looking at the diversity of bodies not only on earth but in the skies - sun, moon, stars - all these varieties of beauty and brightness. 41 And we're only looking at pre-resurrection "seeds" – who can imagine what the resurrection "plants" will be like!

42 This image of planting a dead seed and raising a live plant is a mere sketch at best, but perhaps it will help in approaching the mystery of the resurrection body –

but only if you keep in mind that when we're raised, we're raised for good, alive forever!

43 The corpse that's planted is no beauty, but when it's raised, it's glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. 44 The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural - same seed, same body, but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality!

45 We follow this sequence in Scripture:  
The First Adam received life,  
the Last Adam is a life-giving Spirit.

46 Physical life comes first, then spiritual –  
47 a firm base shaped from the earth,  
a final completion coming out of heaven.

48 The First Man was made out of earth,  
and people since then are earthy;  
the Second Man was made out of heaven,  
and people now can be heavenly.

49 In the same way that we've worked from our earthy origins, let's embrace our heavenly ends. 50 I need to emphasize, friends, that our natural, earthy lives don't in themselves lead us by their very nature into the kingdom of God. Their very "nature" is to die, so how could they "naturally" end up in the Life kingdom? 51 But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die - but we are all going to be changed.

52 You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes - it's over. On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we'll all be changed. 53 In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal.

54 Then the saying will come true:  
Death swallowed by triumphant Life!

55 Who got the last word, oh, Death?  
Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now?

56 It was sin that made death so frightening  
and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage,  
its destructive power.

57 But now in a single victorious stroke of Life,  
all three - sin, guilt, death - are gone, the gift  
of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

58 With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.

## Paul in Romans 8:15-39 (Message)

**15** This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life.

It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?"

**16** God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. **17**

And we know we are going to get what's coming to us - an unbelievable inheritance!

We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him! <sup>18</sup> That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. <sup>19</sup> The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. <sup>20</sup> Everything in creation is being more or less held back.

God reins it in **21** until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens. **22** All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs.

23 These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. 24 That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. 25 But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

**26** Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. **27** He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. **28** That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

29 God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. 30 After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself.

And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun. <sup>31</sup> So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? <sup>32</sup> If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

33 And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? 34 Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us - who was raised to life for us! – is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. 35 Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us?

There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

**36** They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. **37** None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. **38** I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, **39** high or low, thinkable or unthinkable –

absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

## Revelation 2 (Message)

9 "I can see your pain and poverty - constant pain, dire poverty - but I also see your wealth. And I hear the lie in the claims of those who pretend to be good Jews, who in fact belong to Satan's crowd. 10 "Fear nothing in the things you're about to suffer - but stay on guard!

Fear nothing! The Devil is about to throw you in jail for a time of testing - ten days. It won't last forever. "Don't quit, even if it costs you your life. Stay there believing. I have a Life-Crown sized and ready for you. <sup>11</sup> "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches. Christ-conquerors are safe from Devil-death."

## 2. When we die, our spirit and soul go to be home with the Lord.

### Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:1-8 NRSV

**1** For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—  
**3** if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

## **Philippians 1:22-23**

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; (NIV)

### **3. Believers will dwell with God forever.**

#### **Psalm 23:6 (NIV)**

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

#### **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (Message)**

**13** And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer.

First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. <sup>14</sup> Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence - we have the Master's word on it - that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind.

In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us.

**16** The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise - they'll go first. **17** Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. **18** Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

## 4. Jesus prepares a special place for believers in heaven.

### Jesus in John 14:1-3 (NIV)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

## **5. Heaven will be far better than earth for believers.**

**Philippians 1:21 (NIV)**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Revelation 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this down: ‘Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!’”

## **6. The death of a believer is precious to God.**

**Psalm 116:15 (NIV)**

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

## **7. Believers belong to the Lord in heaven.**

**Paul in Romans 14:8 (NIV)**

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

## 8. Believers are citizens of heaven.

### Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

## 9. After their physical death, believers gain eternal life.

**John 11:25-26 (NIV)**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"