

Don't be afraid to Die

I. Don't forget, the change is coming and don't fear the change

- 1. We need to not be consumed with this life to the point that you forget you are just passing through, on your way home!**
- 2. Do NOT fear death!**
- 3. To really look forward to the coming of the LORD or going to be with Him, with real joyous anticipation.**

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, *“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again”* The word see is to perceive.

Ephesians 1:17-19 I keep asking that the God of our LORD Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength.

What we perceive and understand spiritually, we never want to forget or let fade because of earthly or worldly distractions, which can occur!

Luke 10:20 ...Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-16, 19 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

II. SOJOURNER

We must never forget that we are “sojourners” in this world.

Philippians 3:17-21 ...But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:1-4...Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

We have natural eyes and ears and are able to enjoy the natural things of this earth family, ministry, a wife but we can't forget that we must also see with our spiritual eyes that we are only passing through.

John 14:1-4 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. You know the way to the place where I am going.

Reality escapes us too easily! Sometimes I think technology gets in the way of our thinking as well.

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 7:56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

The same Holy Spirit that bears witness with our spirit when we get saved, assures us that we are the children of God. If we will give him a chance, by reading the word and coming to him in prayer and worship His Spirit will bear witness truths concerning Him.

III. WARNING

II Peter 3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days *scoffers will come*, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, *the love of most will grow cold*, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Hebrews 3:12-14 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, *unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God*. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

II Peter 1:9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has *forgotten that he has been cleansed from the past sins*.

Matthew 13:22 *The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.*

IV. NOW, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

Unbelievers aren't believing he's coming back. A lot of believers aren't looking for him. Now this doesn't happen over night!

- 1. Love waxing cold**
- 2. An evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God.**
- 3. Forgetting that your sins have ever been forgiven.**
- 4. The word being choked and becoming unfruitful.**

I believe one of the most subtle ways this can happen is by:

Not looking forward to where we are going

But being pre-occupied with where we are (in this world) with a sense of permanence forgetting we are sojourners, visitors here, actually on our way home.

V. BEING WITH HIM IN HEAVEN

Luke 22:28-32 "I bestow upon you a kingdom"

I Peter 1:3-4 ...In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you.

VI. PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE

Philippians 1:21-24 For me to live is Christ [His life in me], and to die is gain [the gain of the glory of eternity].

Paul's perspective was that he'd rather die to live in heaven with Jesus.
He understood that Jesus Christ had already dealt with the sting of death.

II Timothy 1:9-10 Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life...

1 Corinthians 15:15-55 Oh Death, where is thy sting

John 11:25-26 Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Believers will NEVER die.

God is the God of the living not the dead.

Matthew 17:2-3 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Moses had physically died and Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind yet they were both there talking with Jesus.

VII. LIFE

II Corinthians 5:2-4 ...what is mortal may be swallowed up by LIFE.

The Bible says that flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God!

This life is a vehicle in which we can come to know the Lord, build relationships, pro-create, love, and see others know the Lord. Finally, this life is the vehicle in which He will use to see us become more like Him and then we go to be with HIM. Don't forget where you're going!