

An Attempt To Listen To God

Promises From God Relating  
To Death

By

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## Promises From God Relating To Death

When Paul the apostle wrote to the Corinthian and Thessalonian saints, he was aware of two concerns they had regarding the coming of the Lord. The problems were not the same:

- 1) The Corinthian concern was: “What will happen to those who are alive when the Lord comes” (1 Cor. 15:51-38)
- 2) The Thessalonian concern was: “What will happen to those who were saved but have died when the Lord comes?” (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Those who died without Christ, die as they have lived. They live without hope (Eph. 2:12) and die without hope. But for those who are saved:

- 1) While alive they live in hope of sharing (my paraphrase) the glory of God. (Rom. 5:2)
- 2) They “wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.” (Gal. 5:5)
- 3) They live knowing the “hope of His calling”. (Eph. 1:18)
- 4) They live in the “hope of eternal life”. (Titus 1:2)

Understanding that when God used the word “hope”, it is not as we use it. When God uses it the meaning is “joyful anticipation and expectancy”. Since we live in the joyful anticipation and expectancy of eternal life, death for the believer is not a dark tunnel when one enters the unknown.

Due to us being in the body, it is hard for us to believe that death is both a curse and a blessing. It is a blessing in that it brings to an end the sufferings of this life. Many an individual is languishing in a twisted body wrecked with cancer or some other cruel disease, and longed for death. Others have lived with the agony of a wasted life, or a mind that no longer knows reality. The very concept of living forever in such a state is terrible to contemplate.

God is very understanding of our limited comprehension and uses Paul to give us an illustration of that which happens a believer at the moment of death. Our bodies are likened unto a seed that is sown, after which it rises to a higher life. There is no such a thing as an unproductive non-germinating seed in the garden of God. Our bodies will be sown in death with the assurance that we will rise again. We will be recognizably the same, but distinctly different from that which we are now. They will be glorified bodies like to our Lord’s body. But we do not have to wait for that body to enter fulness of life, that happens at the moment of death. (2 Cor. 5:6; Phil. 1:23)

Psalm 23 has brought comfort to many thousands of saints, and in it we find:

- 1) God is all the believer needs:
  - i) In life: “The Lord is my Shepherd”. (v. 1)
  - ii) In death: “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death Thou are with me”. (v. 4)
  - iii) For eternity: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”. (v. 6)

However, for those who are left, there is an unspeakable emptiness in the home and deeper in the heart that nothing can replace. It is often said that time heals. To my mind, time does not heal, one only gets used to the situation, if such a term can be used.

When our Lord entered physical death and rose, he took away the sting of death but He did not remove the fear of dying. There would be very few who would not hope that when death begins to take hold of the body, it will not be by means of a slow agonizing death.

The following are a collection of promises from God in view of this situation.

Promises	Reference
“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”	2 Cor. 5:1
“For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain”	Phil. 1:21

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Promises	Reference
“To be with Christ; which is far better”	Phil. 1:23
“But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive me”	Psa. 49:15
“Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory”	Psa. 73:24
“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”	1 Cor. 15:55-57
“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”	2 Cor. 4:16
“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever”	Psa. 23:6
“For the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go before thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”	Deut. 31:6
“This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy word hath quickened me”	Psa. 119:50
“My times are in thy hands”	Psa. 31:15
“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints”	Psa. 116:15
“I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep . . . For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so . . . will God bring with Him?”	1 Thess. 4:13, 14
“Absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”	2 Cor. 5:8
“Meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”	1 Thess. 4:17
“His servants shall serve Him . . . and they shall see His face”	Rev. 22:3-4
“Worms destroy this body”	Job. 19:26
“To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness”	Isa. 61:3
“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning”	Psa. 30:5
“I go and prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there ye may be also”	Jn. 14:3
“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”	1 Pet. 1:4
“Blessed be . . . the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation”	2 Cor. 1:3-4
“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God”	Isa. 40:1

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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