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All words spoken by Jesus Christ are in **red text**.  
(Hyperlinks are surrounded by parenthesis and are underlined.)

## Introduction

Many persons think there is only one type of death: when our physical body (which “houses” our soul) dies. However, there are three additional types of biblically defined deaths that occur within the spiritual realm: sinful nature, born again, and second.

1. **Sinful Nature** death occurs:
  - At conception. The lineage source of our sinful nature is Adam (Romans 5:12).
  - Because of our innate sinful nature:
    - We seek to fulfill the sinful desires of our flesh.
    - We are “disconnected” from God and are spiritually dead.
    - We are willing “prey” to the influential power of Satan and his minions.
2. **Born Again:**
  - Causes the death of our sinful nature.
  - Occurs when we place our faith in Jesus Christ:
    - Our sins are forgiven.
    - We are “connected” to God and become spiritually alive.
    - Our sinful nature dies as:
      - The desires of our flesh and the influential power of Satan diminishes.
      - We become more like Jesus and less like ourselves.
        - Jesus declared, “**Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” John 3:3
        - “**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**” 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - Eliminates us from experiencing God’s final judgment of a 2nd death. (Rom. 3:21-26; Rev. 2:11, 3:5)
3. **Physical** death occurs:
  - When our body no longer functions.
  - When our soul leaves the confines our physical body.
4. **Second** death occurs:
  - In an eternal lake of fire.
  - After the physical death, and after the Great White Throne Judgment.

Here are important points to consider:

- Our souls are eternal and will never die.
- Sinful nature, born again and second deaths are spiritual and occur within our soul. However, there are often physical indicators (words and behavior) that are associated with sinful nature and born again deaths.
- All persons will experience one of the following sequence of deaths:
  - Sinful Nature, Born Again, Physical
  - Sinful Nature, Physical, Second
- A born again death “deactivates” the second death.
- All persons will experience 3 deaths, no persons will experience all 4.
- No one should experience the second death—where there will be unimaginable sorrow, regret, anguish, and where “**there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**” Mat. 13:42
  - “**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.**” Revelation 21:8
  - Jesus declared, “**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.**” Revelation 2:11
  - “**Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**” Rev. 20:14-15

## Sinful Nature Death

The source of our sinful nature is found in Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned against God by breaking God's one and only commandment: do not eat the fruit from one specific tree.

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Genesis 2:15-17

Adam could eat from any tree but one—which should be a very simple command to obey. You get to live in absolute bliss in the Garden of Eden; you're continually in God's presence; all of your needs are met; and you get to live a perfect life by just not eating from this one tree! Plus, God warned Adam by saying he would die if he ate the fruit from the tree. Not a physical death but spiritual—in that his life of absolute bliss would no longer exist.

However, Eve believed the deceptive lie by Satan and ate fruit from the tree. She then gave some to Adam to eat. God's word is true! As a consequence of not obeying His word, they spiritually died and hid themselves from God.

"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:4-8

The sinful nature of Adam and Eve was passed on to their children and throughout all generations. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8

### Being born spiritually dead is evidenced by our behavior.

Excluding Jesus Christ—who was conceived by the Holy Spirit ([Luke 1:26-35](#))—every person conceived by man and woman is born spiritually dead—which is demonstrated by our sinful nature—and characterized by sin, an unrepentant heart, and a desire to avoid/hide from God.

The sinful nature of people is easily seen. Consider how a very young child will lie when they have been caught doing what they know is wrong. The child will even deny the truth when given factual evidence of their wrongdoing. Unfortunately, this type of lying continues into adulthood. Do you ever "scratch your head" and wonder sometimes why people do what they do? Why do people steal? Why do people harbor hatred, argue and fight? Why do people commit adultery? Why do people murder one another? Why can't we get along? What's more, as you take time and contemplate the depths of the human soul, you will see even darker dimensions of the sinful nature we were all born with.

In addition, Satan and his minions:

- Use various deceptive means and lies to target, influence and control our sinful nature.
- Facilitate the creation of delusional reasons and arguments (all lies) to justify our sin.
- Continually seek to increase the degree of darkness so that we are unable to see truth.

## Born Again Death

Jesus said, “You must be born again.” John 3:7

Those who have a disdain for the unrighteousness of their sins, and have a heart-felt desire for the righteousness of God are at the threshold of experiencing a born again death of their sinful nature. For there is only one means to overcome and be free from the bondage of sin. Must read scripture: (Rom. 8:1-17; Col. 3:5-10; 1 Pet. 3:18).

Jesus declared:

- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16
- “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:20-21
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6
- “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25

It is because of God’s grace and His love we are able to experience the death of our sinful nature. For each time we fail, each time we experience the consequences of our sin (including shame and remorse), each time we confess our sin to God, each time He forgives us, and each time we put it behind us and press on towards Him...the influential power of the sin is reduced as His righteousness is increased. This process is called sanctification—which causes the death of our sinful nature, and replaces it with a new “born-again” life that increasingly reflects the light and life of Jesus.

- “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7
- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:23-26
- “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14
- “You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Rev. 5:9
- “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2:1
- “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:13-15

To gain additional understanding, click ([HERE](#)) to view an informative YouTube video called “Living Water.”



## Physical Death

[“And as it is appointed for men to die once.”](#) Hebrews 9:24

Although it is a difficult and anxious thought to consider...every one of us will physically die. It is inevitable and a point of time in the future when our soul will be separated from our body...and we begin our eternal experience in the spiritual realm.

So, here is an interesting question to consider: what will your epitaph say? An epitaph is a phrase or words written as an inscription on a gravestone in memory of a person who has died. If those who knew you were asked to write your epitaph today, what words would they write?

This is an important question to consider because this scenario will likely happen. But what's more, your answer may define where you spend eternity after you die. Take some time to read each of the gravestones and ask yourself is this what they would write about me?



Here is a very important truth to understand. Our physical death is also the “finish line” and a point of no return. In other words, for each person who either accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord—or rejected Jesus—their fate and eternal future is “sealed” upon their physical death.

There are many persons who know what they need to do...but delay their decision to give their life to Jesus based upon “justified” reasons (but are in truth delusional lies). Meanwhile, they risk far more than they realize.

| Justified Reason                            | Truth  |
|---|--|
| Church filled with hypocrites               | Every person on earth falls short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 |
| Not good enough / need to improve first     | Will never be good enough—salvation is because of God’s grace      |
| Concerned about what others may think       | A true friend accepts you as you are—without ridicule or judgment  |
| Fear of Christian role, function or service | The Holy Spirit prepares each heart to joyfully glorify God        |
| Prefer sin and don’t want to change         | They do not realize they are in bondage to sin and in darkness     |
| All good people go to heaven                | <b>“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”</b> John 14:6   |
| I’ve got time                               | We can die in an instant—without warning/foreknowledge             |

Jesus provided us with a parable (The Rich Man and Lazarus) to give us insight into the finality of physical death, the consequences of sin and the inability to go back and “fix things.” A rich man who experienced “worldly things” in life, died and found himself in the flames of Hell. While Lazarus, a sick beggar, died and found himself in Heaven. The rich man realized the eternal severity of his mistake and desired to warn his family, but it was too late.

**“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and**

was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" Luke 16:19-31



## 2nd Death

When compared to the other two types of death, the second death is the worst form of death...because it is an eternal death of the soul—tormented day and night forever and ever—because our soul will never die.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28

Those who are not born again will experience a second death.

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Revelation 20:10

"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14

"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." Revelation 21:8

## The Narrow Gate and the Broad Path

Those who are born again will not experience a second death.



"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." Revelation 2:11

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:6

Every day we encounter a multitude of worldly influences that are intended to misdirect us from God's truths, and lead us to an eternal demise. However, when we open our spiritual eyes...we will see and understand these misdirections are delusional lies that propagate darkness and destruction...from the source of lies. Jesus said regarding Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44

Jesus declared, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25-26

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:5



## Do you know Jesus?



Jesus lived and died a sacrificial death so that we can be forgiven for our sins...past, present, future, and for eternity. Believe in what Jesus did for us on the cross; extend your faith in Him; place your trust in Him; and give your life to Him by praying:

*Holy God, I am a sinner. Jesus, I believe you died and paid the price for who I am and what I have done. I want to trust and follow you as my Savior and Lord. Holy Spirit, I invite you to come into my heart and life and change me from within. Thank you, Jesus, for providing a way to restore my relationship with God. Amen.*

The next step is to read "What is a Born-Again Christian" on [UniqueBibleStudies.com](http://UniqueBibleStudies.com).

All for the Glory of God!  
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