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All words spoken by Jesus Christ are in **red text**.

Many persons think there is only one type of death: when our body—which contains our soul and spirit—dies. However, because we have a soul and a spirit there are two additional deaths: spiritual death and second death.

- **Spiritual** death:
 - Occurs at conception.
 - Is characterized by our sinful nature.
- **Physical** death occurs:
 - When our body no longer functions.
 - When our soul and spirit leave our physical bodies.
- **Second** death occurs:
 - After our physical death.
 - After the Great White Throne Judgment.
 - To those whose names are not found in the Book of Life.

It is important to note here that all three types of death represent some type of separation.

- **Spiritual** death results in *separation* from God.
- **Physical** death is a *separation* between the soul and spirit from the physical body.
- **Second** death is an eternal *separation* from God.

Spiritual Death

The origination of spiritual death 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 spiritual death 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 sinful nature.

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.

Jesus said, **“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

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.

However, Jesus Christ obediently gave His life as a free gift to overcome our sinful nature (and its consequences); which has been passed on throughout each generation since Adam’s disobedience.

“Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:18-19

Jesus—who was fully aware of our spiritually dead condition—declared we must be born again. **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”** John 3:3, 5-6

Born again is a spiritual birth and regenerative transformation performed by the Holy Spirit—which begins as one:

- Believes (in faith) Jesus Christ died for our sins.
- Accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Yields to the Holy Spirit as He transforms us from within into the image of Jesus Christ.

Being born again is comprised of a spiritual transition from being spiritually dead—to being spiritually alive as we live in the unmerited grace and forgiveness God gave us in His Son, Jesus Christ. God’s forgiveness for our sins (past, present and future) is His spiritual means to crucify our sinful nature, and to change our heart and soul.

“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

For more information on born again, read **“What is a Born-Again Christian”** on the Unique Bible Studies website.

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 and spirit 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	“No one comes to the Father except through Me.” 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.

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

"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

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

Jesus warned, "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

"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

I mentioned earlier that every person that has entered into this world since Adam has been born with a sinful nature—which results in spiritual death. However, there is One who has entered into this world—not born as an act of procreation between a man and woman—but conceived by the Holy Spirit.

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’ Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’ And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’” Luke 1:26-35

As such, God’s Son was not born with man’s sinful nature and was sinless. “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.” (1 Peter 2:22) Jesus Christ was the one and only perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who believe. His reflection of God was demonstrated as He was being crucified between two criminals. One taunted Jesus. The other recognized who Jesus is and what was occurring, had a repentant heart and asked Him to remember him. Consider the heart of Jesus as He told him he was forgiven...for this is the glorious grace of the God we serve!

“Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, ‘If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.’ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” Luke 23:39-43

There are a lot of obstacles, challenges and temptations in life—all competing for our attention—and all seeking to control who and what we are. But when you stand back and look at the big picture...none of these truly fulfill the deep desires of our heart and soul...and leave us empty on the inside. These things are only a diversion, a distraction and a delusion. The only thing that has present and eternal value...is what we do for Him.

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



Do you know Jesus?

He lived and died a sacrificial death for your sins so that you can be forgiven...past, present, future and for eternity. Believe in Him; 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.

All for the Glory of God!
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