

## **I'm afraid to die**

Hello, friend. I know that you have some fear of dying. That's why you clicked on this short message. To tell you the truth, most people, if they will tell the truth, are afraid of death and especially of dying, so you're not alone.

Since no one you know has actually experienced death and then come back to tell the whole story, it causes us to wonder what it is really like and what will really happen when we die. I believe that the Bible is the Word of God. I believe that because many of the things it says are proven to be true every day.

The more archeologists dig, the more they find evidence that goes along with what the Bible says about history. The more truth science discovers, the more it agrees with what the Bible declares to be true about the universe. And the fact is that Jesus Christ completely changed my life when I gave my life to Him, just like I read in the Bible when I was a teenager.

Jesus told His disciples not to fear death, but to know that He would be with them He would be with them forever. The Bible explains that when my body dies, my spirit will still be alive, aware, touching, tasting, feeling, and thinking. And that I will be just as real and solid as I am now, only in another place and I will live there for eternity.

When I asked Jesus to take over my life and to forgive me of my sins and I turned from running my life myself to receive Him as my Master, He took away my fear of death and of dying. I don't mean to say that I want to die today. No, in fact, I want to live on this earth as long as I can. I have had troubles and heartaches here just like everyone else, but I know that we only live this life once and I want to do all I can for Jesus while I am here.

Because I know the Lord Jesus Christ and because He has always done in my life what He said He would do, I believe I can trust what the Bible says, so I can believe what it says about death and life after death.

The Bible declares that it is appointed to man once to die and after this, the judgment. It says that for the person who has Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, "To be absent from the flesh is to be present with the Lord.

I think the very best description about death and life after death is found in Luke 16 in the New Testament. Jesus is talking here and explaining to the people about two men who died at about the same time. One man was a wealthy man who thought He was OK with God because he was rich and his life had always been easy and full of good things. The other man was a sickly man who was poor and had nothing all his life. In fact, Jesus even gave the poor man's name—Lazarus.

Lazarus was so poor and sick that he had to lay on the ground and wait for people to give him money or food. He laid by the rich man's front entrance every day hoping that the

man or some of his friends would give him enough to live. When both of these men died, Lazarus was carried away to heaven by angels. He probably didn't even have a funeral. The rich man did have a funeral but Jesus said that "in hell he lifted up his eyes and said that he was "tormented in the flames." He said that he was "thirsty and needed a drink of water."

The rich man could see Lazarus in heaven and he could see Abraham, one of the ancient men of faith there with Lazarus as well. The rich man could talk, so he cried out for Abraham to please send Lazarus to "dip his finger in the water to cool my tongue, for I am tormented by these flames!"

Abraham explained to the rich man that no one could get to heaven or hell from hell or heaven and that no one could go back to the world of the living from either place. You see, the rich man realized how horrible his existence would be for eternity and he begged Abraham to send some one back to the world to warn his brothers so that they might escape the fires of hell.

You see, friend, there is a strong reason to fear death unless you know beyond a doubt that you are going to heaven for eternity when you die. See, the Bible is plain when it tells that heaven is real. And if heaven is real, then hell has to be just as real. There is a lot more information in the Bible about hell than about heaven and the Bible is the only reliable evidence we have about either place.

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I want to serve the One who saved me from sin and from eternal death and from hell. You see: with Jesus—eternal life / Without Jesus—eternal death (separation from God in hell.) You might ask, why would God create hell, anyway? He didn't originally create hell for man. He created it for Satan and the other angels who followed Satan in a rebellion in heaven thousands of years ago. Hell is an eternal prison and punishment for the one third of the angels who chose to try to overthrow their Creator.

When Satan conned Adam and Eve into disobeying God in the Garden of Eden, God had no choice but to sentence man to the same eternal death as those fallen angels. But God loved man so much that He had to provide them with a way of escape, so He came to earth Himself as a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He died on a Roman cross and took all of man's sins into the only sinless body and paid the price for the sins of the human race from Adam to the last person that will ever be born on this earth.

You can read it yourself in the Bible in John 18-19. Take time and read what Jesus did and then keep reading and see what happened when Jesus came back from death after being dead for three days.

You see, we do know of one man who died and returned to life-Jesus. He said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me shall never die." The word "believe" that Jesus used means to trust in, rely on and cling to. In other words, a person who truly receives Jesus as He is, the Master and the Savior, will never die. Jesus didn't mean that this person's body would never experience death. He meant that eternal life would belong to this believer because Jesus has died in his or her place and has risen from the dead.

If you want to have eternal life and if you are willing to let Jesus really be who He is in your life, the Master (Boss) and Savior (Forgiver), you can. Jesus said, "Look, I stand at the door and I am knocking. If anyone will hear my voice and open the door I will come unto him and dine with him and he with Me." Jesus is standing outside the door of your heart and He is knocking. That's the feeling you are having inside right now. He is ready to enter into your life and forgive you for your sins and take His rightful place as Lord and Master of your life, if you will open the door and let Him in.

He won't come in unless you invite Him. If you want to invite Him in and let Him live in your and give you eternal life, you can tell Him that in a simple prayer. You have the mean what you say because He knows your heart. But if you ask Him sincerely to forgive you for your sins and you are willing to repent (turn away) from your sinning and surrender your heart and life to Jesus, He has promised to come into your life and to actually live inside your body by His Holy Spirit. He will forgive you for everything you have ever done wrong and He will give you the power to live for Him AND He will give you eternal life with Him instead of life forever in hell.

Let me pray for you first. Just bow your head and listen. Lord Jesus, I ask you in your Name to please take the fear away from my friend who is listening to this message and help my friend here to truly receive You. Thank you Lord Jesus, amen.

Now friend, please pray after me and ask Jesus to come into your life. I'll pray slowly so you can pray after me. Here we go.

Lord Jesus, I need you in my life. I know I have done a lot of things wrong. I am sorry for all of my sins. Please forgive me and come into my life. I will go wherever you want me to go. I will do whatever you want me to do. I will be whatever you want me to be. I surrender and turn my life completely over to you. Lord Jesus, I receive you by faith as my Savior and the Lord of my life. Thank you, Lord Jesus for dying on the cross for me. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for coming into my life right now. Thank you for giving me eternal life with you. In your name I pray, Lord Jesus, Amen.

Now friend, say this with me. Jesus Christ has come into my life and Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life.