

Scared to Death!



**4 Questions That Will
Help You Understand
and Deal with
Fear**

Are you afraid to die?

There is a reason people are scared to die and the Bible, which comes from God (2 Timothy 3:16), tells us why. In Hebrews 2:14-15 it says, “Since therefore the children (of God) share in flesh and blood, He (Jesus Christ) Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.**” Hebrews 2:14 is saying that in order for people to be freed from bondage to Satan, and the fear of death which keeps them bound as slaves to him, Jesus Christ (Who is the eternal son of God), had to become human. He had to take on a human body (flesh and blood). In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ offered His body as a sacrifice for the sins of all of God’s chosen people; He had His blood shed on the cross which resulted in bodily death. It was through Christ’s bodily death that He destroyed “the one who has the power of death” – the devil.

Where will you go after you die?

Current statistics show that close to 1,786,655 people around the world have died in connection with the COVID-19 virus. The highly-publicized number of COVID-related deaths is getting people of all ages to think more seriously about death. Although death is a reality, many do their best to try to avoid thinking about it. The world-wide pandemic has been used by God to “stop people in their tracks” and get them thinking about the reality of death. The reason there is death in the world is because all people are sinners (Romans 3:23). Sin is a violation of God’s timeless moral law which comes to expression in the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments

1. "You shall have no other gods before Me" (*Exodus 20:1–3*).
2. "You shall not make for yourself a graven image" (*Ex. 20:4*).
3. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (*Ex. 20:7*).
4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (*Ex. 20:8*).
5. "Honor your father and your mother" (*Ex. 20:12*).
6. "You shall not murder" (*Ex. 20:13*).
7. "You shall not commit adultery" (*Ex. 20:14*).
8. "You shall not steal" (*Ex. 20:15*).
9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (*Ex. 20:16*).
10. "You shall not covet" (*Ex. 20:17*).

God is very serious about sin! He does not take it lightly! The first half of Romans 6:23 says that "...the wages of sin is death." Every person is not only born a sinner, but sins countless times throughout his or her life. Even if a person sinned only once, he would deserve to die in light of God's moral purity and perfect justice. All people know that they sin and are sinners because God has built within them a conscience which works in connection with His Ten Commandments. Whenever someone sins, he or she experiences guilt. People do all kinds of things to do away with the emotional pain of guilt. Some try to numb a guilty conscience by using alcohol or drugs. Others try to escape the pangs of guilt by being constantly on the run or continually entertaining themselves. But, figuring out a way to relieve oneself from guilt does not make the sins one has committed go away, nor does it restrain God's anger. Sin makes God very angry! If you do not have your sin problem taken care of before you die, you will spend eternity in hell experiencing God's wrath. The Biblical description of hell is terrifying! It is a place of outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth; a place of sorrows; a place of everlasting destruction; a place where fire is not quenched; a

place of no rest. It is a bottomless pit. Unbelieving friend, the place where you are headed is terrible beyond words.

What is the way to be delivered from the fear of death and hell?

Now for the good news! Thankfully, Romans 6:23 does not end saying, "...the wages of sin is death"; it goes on to say, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord". God has revealed the terrifying nature of hell to you in order that you turn to Jesus Christ. God's wrath is, indeed, great! But it is not greater than His love revealed in Jesus Christ. God has provided only one way to escape eternal torment and obtain eternal life. "Jesus said... 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).

So, what exactly must one do to be delivered from hell?
He/she must repent and believe!

Repenting involves acknowledging before God's face that you are a sinner in need of grace, hating your sins, turning from them, and seeking to live your life for the glory of God. One of the results of having true faith is living a life of obedience to God (John 14:15) out of gratitude for what He has done.

Believing involves acknowledging that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God Who came to die for sinners, believing that He has power to save, and trusting in what He has accomplished in His life, death, and resurrection. Christ lived the perfect life, and His righteousness is credited to a person when he/she believes in Him by faith. Christ died for sinners, experiencing the full force of God's curse and wrath against sin on the cross in His own body, so that those who believe in Him will not have to experience His eternal wrath. But Christ did not stay in the grave. Christ rose from the dead, winning the ultimate victory over Satan, sin, and death. If you believe in Christ as your

Savior, you also are a victor through Him; furthermore, Christ's resurrection secures your own resurrection from the dead.

Do you want to escape the eternal condemnation that you deserve as a sinner? Then repent and believe and you will be delivered from the bondage of Satan and from hell. Turn from sin and believe in Jesus Christ, trusting that only His blood has the power to wash away your sin and make you right with God. Then, go to a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church, for church membership is not optional for those who truly believe in Jesus Christ. We invite you to come to our church on Sunday. We will conclude our time with you by asking one final important question:

Will you live the rest of your life on earth paralyzed by fear?

Thousands upon thousands of people around the world today are being paralyzed by fear. Many are afraid to go to work or school. Others are afraid to spend time with members of their family and church or with their friends. This paralyzing fear is not only causing estrangement in important relationships, but it is also greatly contributing to depression. Signs of depression have tripled in the U.S. since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Many people in the United States and other countries are suffering with moderate-to-severe cases of depression, which is rooted in fear, particularly the fear of dying. As can be deduced from what was shared earlier, part of the scheme of the devil is to keep people in bondage to himself via "chains of the fear of death." If you have responded to the gospel by embracing Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you should no longer be paralyzed with fear of anyone or anything, especially death! Now, stating that believers or Christians should not be paralyzed with fear in no way means that they should not take **reasonable measures** to keep any virus from spreading. If you are sick with the flu or any type of virus, you should

demonstrate love for your neighbors as commanded by Christ (Luke 10:27), by taking **reasonable measures** to keep yourself from passing the sickness along to them.

Finally, keeping oneself from being paralyzed with fear involves keeping things in perspective. Although every life is important and we should all be doing our part in taking **reasonable measures** to minimize the spread of any virus, we must keep things in perspective. As of 12/29/2020 the estimated world population was 7.8 billion people and the total number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 was 1,786,655 people. Utilizing the proven science of mathematics, you come up with a total of 0.02% of the total population that have died from COVID-19. The estimated population of the USA on 12/29/2020 was 331,974,854 people. The total number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 in the USA was 343,593 people. That means that about 0.1% of our total USA population has died from COVID-19. The CDC's preliminary estimate of the number of people in the USA who died from the common flu in the 2018-2019 season was 34,200 deaths. The estimated population for the USA in 2018 was 328,239,523 people. This means that 0.01% of the US citizenry in 2019 died of the common flu. As you can see, deaths caused by COVID-19 are not that much greater than deaths caused by the common flu. These statistics are not shared to encourage cockiness, callousness, and carelessness in terms of disease control. We all have a responsibility to take **reasonable measures** to prevent the spread of sickness; but let us, as members of the body of Christ, not be paralyzed by fear, **"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."** *2 Timothy 1:7*

Whenever you begin to become overwhelmed with fear, cling to the promise given by God in Isaiah 41:10.

“...Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

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