

“God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”
by Velma Sanders

“DEATH”

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; But of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

(Genesis 2:15-17, King James Version)

In my early readings of the Bible, I would always stumble at the account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Having clearly read the command of God to Adam not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil lest he die; and then seeing Adam so swiftly disobey the command by eating, I was confused because I did not see Adam immediately “fall down and die.” Instead he continued to live – and that for hundreds of years. It was not until later when I discovered that the Bible speaks of several different types of death – *Spiritual Death, Physical Death and The Second Death.*

Further bewilderment existed also because I did not have a clear Biblical understanding of the word “death.” The Bible’s primary definition of “death” is not that of ceasing to exist or cessation of life, but instead, *when the Bible speaks of “death” the meaning can be summed up in one word – SEPARATION.* In death something has become severed, detached from something else. Whether it is in the realm of the physical or spiritual, the invisible or visible, the “one” or now “two.”

In “the act of death,” we see the following “divorces” occurring. In *Spiritual Death*, there is the departure of Man from God. In *Physical Death*, the departure of the soul and spirit of man from the body. Finally, in *The Second Death*, we have the eternal banishment of the spirit, soul and body of the unredeemed from God into the Lake of Fire.

The initial command of God to man was given as a warning and as a “hedge of protection” against the fatal and detrimental blow of sin, which gives way to certain death. If mankind, in Adam, had not disobeyed God, and sinned, we would not have to be concerned about Death in any form. **THE CAUSE OF ALL DEATH IS SIN.**

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Let us consider *Spiritual Death* - the separation of the Holy God from Sinful Man.

Succumbing to the temptation of the Serpent, Eve focused upon the forbidden fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. With each passing moment, her desire increased to partake thereof. Eve reached out . . . touched . . . took . . . and tasted of the forbidden fruit. She then gave the fruit to Adam, her husband. With “just one bite” sin makes its entrance into the world. Through Adam’s disobedience, all of Mankind is plunged into *Spiritual Death*.

Being *alienated from the life of God*, the immediate fruit of Man’s *separation* from God is found in his sudden awareness of good and evil. Seeking to cover their sin with fig leaves, Adam and Eve flee from the presence of God. Fleeing, sin brings forth the fruit of fear, guilt, loneliness, shame, stress, anger, distrust, anxiety and blame.

With man now *separated from God*, He is like a tree that has been “plucked up from the root.” Although he has the appearance of life, he is in reality “dead.” This can be illustrated in the following manner. Consider that luscious fruit that you purchase at the grocery store. It looks ever so fresh, and the evidences of “death” scarcely appear. But we know because that fruit is not attached to its life source, the tree, it is dead. NOT THAT IT “*WILL DIE*,” BUT THAT IT “*IS DEAD*.” Likewise is fallen man, in Adam, detached from God, the Source of Life. Although, Man may have the appearance of life, and we bathe, perfume and dress; worship and nourish; entertain, educate and employ ourselves – man, without Jesus Christ, is *Spiritually Dead*.

Although it took Adam’s body 930 years, because the seed of death had been placed within him at “The Fall,” Adam, nevertheless, does eventually *Physically Die*.

Physical Death - the separation of the soul and spirit from the body. This is the plight for all of Adam’s descendants. From the moment of birth, irregardless of any outside factors, i.e., nationality, race, political affiliation, religious denomination, etc., all are headed towards physical death.*

In contrast to sin as the only cause for *Spiritual Death*, *Physical Death* may occur due to numerous causes. It may occur through the means of accidents, murder, sickness, penalties or natural causes.

At the moment of *Physical Death*, the spirit and soul is released from the body and they make their immediate and instant journey to be either with the Lord in Heaven, or to be forever separated from Him in Hell.

Once again, consider that luscious fruit which we earlier purchased at the grocery store. Although it looks ever so beautiful, within a few days, the evidences of death through decay and corruption become apparent upon it. Until we have to “bury it” in the nearest wastebasket. This represents the lifespan of each one of us. Man has “just a few days” until the event of *Physical Death* occurs. At which time the body decomposes and returns back to the earth from which it came.

The last “death” mentioned in Scripture is *The Second Death* – where the body, soul and spirit are eternally banished from God into the Lake of Fire. This *Second Death* is FINAL and IRREVOCABLE, and will occur after the Resurrection and Judgment of Sinners at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Unlike *Spiritual Death*, which ALL are born into; and *Physical Death* which ALL will experience, *The Second Death* will apply ONLY to those who physically die without being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

As long as one is alive upon earth, the possibility exists for him to be united to God and to avoid The Second Death. Jesus Christ is the only way of escape from The Second Death. This “way of escape” is given to Man by God Himself. For one to escape this dreadful Second Death, the only “way of escape” is to be born again. Through this process an individual who has inherited Adam’s dreadful heritage may be “born again” and receive the inheritance that comes through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has many names and titles, two of which are The Last Adam and The Second Man. Through God having put on flesh and becoming man, He paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross. God, the Father, being satisfied by this work of Jesus raised Christ Jesus from the dead. Today the empty tomb proclaims that the price for sin has been paid.

Having been dead in trespasses and sins, one can now be made alive. Delivered now from the Spiritual Death, being now reconciled to God. The Second Death has no power upon those who place their trust In Him.

The Serpent beguiled Eve in the garden of Eden with a lie – “You shall not surely die.” Today the slithering, forked tongue of the Serpent is still speaking with that same lie. Although it may take many forms, the Serpent would have some to think that they “have plenty of time” to come to Jesus. With others he hisses, “Jesus is not the ONLY WAY to Heaven.” And yet to others he says, “you can sin and get away with it.” These are all lies.

Hell was not made for you, but for the Devil and his angels. “Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 26:41)

DEATH				
Type	Scripture References	Cause	Separation Of	Those Affected
<i>Spiritual</i>	Genesis 2:16, 17 Ecclesiastes 3:18-21 Romans 5:12, 19 Ephesians 2:1-5 Ephesians 4:18,19 James 1:15	Sin (<i>Adam's Disobedience</i>)	God <i>from Man</i>	All of Mankind (<i>Adam's Descendants</i>)
<i>BEFORE Physical Death, it is POSSIBLE for one to be "Born Again" and Reconciled to God. (Isaiah 55:6, 7; Luke 19:10; John 3:5-7; John 3:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)</i>				
<i>Physical</i>	Genesis 3:19 Genesis 5:5 Psalm 90:10 Ecclesiastes 5:15 Luke 16:22 2 Corinthians 5:8	Natural Sickness Accidental Murder Penalty	The Soul and The Spirit <i>from The Body</i>	*All of Mankind (<i>Sinners/Unsaved or Saints/Saved</i>)
<i>AFTER Physical Death, it is IMPOSSIBLE for one's eternal state to be reversed. (John 8:24; Hebrews 9:27)</i>				
<i>The Second</i>	Revelation 2:11 Revelation 20:6 Revelation 20:11-15 Revelation 21:8	Physically Dying without Jesus Christ as Savior	** The entire man (body, soul and spirit) <i>from God into the Lake of Fire.</i>	All Sinners (<i>Those who died without Jesus Christ as their Savior</i>)

- * *Exceptions: Enoch (Genesis 5:24); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11); Raptured Saints (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)*
 ** *The reuniting of the soul and spirit with the body will occur at the Resurrection(s)
 (John 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53; Revelation 20:11-13)*

**“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment.”
 (Hebrews 9:27)**

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

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