

**Afraid of death?**

**Most of us are somewhat afraid of pain. Most of us probably hope that we can die peacefully in our sleep. For example, I would rather not be eaten alive by lions. I am not addressing how we die or when we die but what happens after we die. God says we go to either heaven or hell. Jesus says the same. Paul and many other the writers of the Bible say the same.**

**I have encountered people who say that when they die, that's it. That nothing happens afterward. We are fortunate that we get to choose what we believe on this subject. People who somehow find the faith to believe that God is in charge and cares deeply for his people have very little, if not zero stress about death, or what happens after death.**

**Each of us must choose whether to believe God or men. God says man's wisdom is foolishness. He also says that anyone who says there is no God, is a fool. Millions and millions of people have come to believe fully in God's Word and His promises. In fact, over time, hundreds of millions have truly believed, and many have died, as we all must.**

**My Bible says that no one knows when Jesus will return to earth, but that he will surely return. Most Christians believe his return will come soon. If you are not a Christian, picture yourself as trapped between two rails on a railroad track. Two trains are bearing down on you, whether you know it or not.**

**If Jesus returns while you are still alive, it is too late for you to repent and submit yourself to Him. If your heart stops before you repent and submit yourself to Jesus, you are too late to do so. None of us knows how long we have and all of us know people who died long before we thought they would. That is why I feel a sense of urgency on your behalf.**

**There are an awful lot of dreadful things going on in our world today. The Bible says that God will not wait forever for men to repent. He became fed up entirely with the people in the city of Sodom, for example, and killed everyone there, after the one Believer had been warned to flee.**

**The people of Nineveh were quite a disgusting bunch. God decided to send a man to warn them to repent, and turn from their wicked ways to Him. He commanded Jonah to go there and preach to the people of that large city.**

Jonah refused and boarded a ship going in the opposite direction. He wound up being thrown overboard, and swallowed by a large fish.

In the belly of this big fish Jonah repented and told God he would obey without delay. The fish swam to the shore near Nineveh and spit him onto the beach. Jonah began immediately to preach to people the need to urgently repent and turn to God.

The people of Nineveh, called Ninevites, responded to Jonah's warnings and sincerely repented, and did what they could to obtain God's forgiveness. God changed His mind and spared their lives. Jonah had a hard time with God's kindness to these notoriously nasty people. God's ways are not our ways as He makes plain in the Bible.

The Bible is full of good people warning their neighbors to repent, to turn from their bad choices, and get right with God. Thousands of people did repent, and thousands of people did not. I did not repent and get right with God until I was 35 years old. I have been a Christian for 41 years, and I know many differences between the old Fred and the new Fred.

I am retired now, and I've been blessed with children and grandchildren and a roof over my head and so many other needs met. I am not wealthy, and I have no desire to be rich. I am not famous and have no desire to be well known. I want to spend what remains of my life serving God, which I believe includes warning others, as others warned me on His behalf.

God loves people who come to Him seeking forgiveness for their sins, and a right relationship with Him. Reading the Gospel of John with an open heart and an open mind is what convinced me and led me to pursue God seriously. By His mercy I have never had a single doubt in 41 years since deciding to accept His sacrifice for my sins and deciding to live for Him instead of just for me.

The Bible says that God gave his only son Jesus for me. The Bible says that Jesus volunteered for that dreadful duty. The Bible says that God has given Jesus authority over all things. Jesus was there at the time that all things were created. The Bible says that by faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command.

The Bible says that it is impossible to please God without faith. And that anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that he

rewards those who sincerely seek Him. The Bible speaks a great deal about the importance of faith in God. For me, faith came from the Word of God as I began to read the Bible with an open heart and mind.

Faith is a gift from God, lest any man should boast, according to Bible. In my view, faith is perhaps His most important gift to me. I am grateful that he has preserved my faith and strengthened it over the past 41 years. I'm also grateful for the peace in my heart and hope and purpose in my life.

The Bible says that a child is a gift from God. I am grateful for my children and for their children. The truth is that I would like to be around for a while to enjoy them and help them whenever and however I can. I would also like to be around to love and support my wife Diane. I sincerely hope that she continues to enjoy good health.

More than once my Bible tells me that I was bought at a price and that I am not my own. I must live accordingly. I must do what I can to build God's Kingdom and not my own. I must love and help other Christians, if I can, as their needs become known to me. And I must reach out to warn unbelievers and those I call Christians In Name Only.

It really comes down to whether we believe God or not. The Bible, if we will read and study it, reveals all we need to know about God and His plans for those who accept the sacrifice Jesus made for sinners and His plan for those who refuse or neglect to do so. To be safe, each one of us must choose Jesus as Lord of our lives, forever.

Joshua succeeded Moses as leader of God's people. I would say to you what Joshua said to all God's people: "Choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." We must do everything we can to forget about ourselves and commit to serve God and Jesus in every way we can forever. His Bible will tell us how to do that.

If I can help you in any way, I would like the opportunity to do so. I would be happy to try to answer any question you might have. I'm not going to ask you for money or endorsement or anything else. I beg you to get serious with God if you are not already. I beg you to accept Christ's sacrifice and His Lordship if you have not already done so. Please don't put it off.

**You should know that according to the Bible only Jesus can forgive sins. You can't afford to be deluded about that. If you are a true believer, please pray for me and other true believers. You will find that God gives true believers a kinship with other true believers all over the world. You will see humility and gratitude and peace in the faces of true believers you meet. You will also see compassion.**

**May God bless you.**