

TWO DEATHS

by Roger Funk, II

We have to come to the end, either by death or by Rapture into Jesus' Glorious Presence – and, in either case, the Scripture rings true with these words:

Hebrews 9:27

(27) And as **it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

The fact that I've entitled this "TWO DEATHS" might, therefore, lead one to believe, "This guy's lost his mind!" or "HERETIC AT WORK!" But... read on, and it will be clear what I'm saying to you!

You must, first, realize that there are TWO sides of ETERNITY!!!

The Scripture is replete with invitations to partake of the GOD-GIVEN Opportunity of ALL opportunities: obtaining, AND HAVING, **ETERNAL Life**; and remarks like, "NOT FORSAKING the assembling of ourselves together... and SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE **THE DAY APPROACHING**" (Hebrews 10:25)!

"So, why is this important regarding death?" you might ask. Here's what the Scripture teaches us:

John 3:3-7

- (3) Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**
- (4) Nicodemus saith unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**
- (5) Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**
- (6) **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**
- (7) **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

Remember: the red letters are Jesus' own words to us all!

So, if we have to be BORN TWICE, then we MUST DIE TWICE!!! Right?!! Now, follow with me on that train of thought:

How we are born matters, most importantly! And Jesus said that the HOW is "of water" and "of the Spirit" – and this is where we see TWO LIVES, NOT MERELY ONE!!!

The first birth is a NATURAL one: born "of the water" is when we pass through amniotic fluid into the birth canal, and, voila, out comes a newborn baby!!!

The second birth comes when we surrender our spirit, soul, and body – GIVEN TO US AT THE FIRST BIRTH – **into the guiding and influencing WILL of THE SPIRIT of the Living God, by receiving His Son, Jesus Christ, as the propitiation** (fancy word

for “sin-sacrifice”) **for one’s own sins, to thereby obtain His ETERNAL MERCY in one’s sins’ stead!!!**

THIS IS THE SECOND BIRTHING!!!

Now, for born-again believers, this is a no-brainer, right?!! Haven’t divulged anything new, anything earth-shaking here, as a radical theology! But wait, there’s more:

You see, there’s birth, and there’s DEATH at the other end – or, if the Lord should choose, there’s a chance to escape this body and death by being “changed” from one state of physical being to another state of physical being: “mortal to immortal” – the glorified body being given in that “change” that takes place in the twinkling of an eye; see here:

1Corinthians 15:51-55

- (51) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed,**
- (52) **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,** at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**
- (53) For **this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.**
- (54) So **when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory.**
- (55) O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

And then there are these verses, for perspective:

1Corinthians 15:50

- (50) Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**

1John 3:2

- (2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and **it doth not yet appear what we shall be:** but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him; *for we shall see him as he is.***

So, having said, and quoted, all that, I maintain the point that EACH OF OUR BODIES SHALL EITHER BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND GIVEN A GLORIFIED, IMMORTAL, INCORRUPTIBLE BODY TO REPLACE THEM – ONES THAT CAN ENDURE BEING IN THE VERY PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN GLORY, TO SEE HIM FACE TO FACE – OR, WE SHALL EACH BE CHANGED, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AND ESCAPE DEATH ALTOGETHER, EACH ONE RECEIVING THAT SAME NEW BODILY BEING!!!

Either way, WE, WHO HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS SAVIOR, AND AS LORD, ARE GOING TO OBTAIN A NEW BODY... WHICH MEANS A NEW BIRTH IN THE PHYSICAL BEING... REQUIRING THAT THIS “CHANGE” OR “NATURAL DEATH” MUST BE “A SECOND DEATH” TO THOSE WHO OBTAIN NEW LIFE!

THE FIRST DEATH IS SPIRITUAL DEATH TO THE BELIEVER IN, AND FOLLOWER OF, CHRIST JESUS, BECAUSE THAT ONE IS BORN **AGAIN** BY THE SPIRIT, **WHICH MEANS HE/SHE DIED TO THE OLD SPIRIT THAT HE/SHE WAS BORN WITH (THE FIRST TIME HE/SHE WAS BORN), AND THUS, THAT WAS THE FIRST DEATH TO HIM/HER!**

THEREFORE, WHEN THAT ONE DIES THE NATURAL DEATH, UNLESS HE OR SHE IS CHANGED IN THE RAPTURE AND ELUDES THE NATURAL DEATH ALTOGETHER, THE CHANGING OF THE BODY, IN EITHER CASE, PUTS AN END TO THE MORTAL, PERISHABLE, FLESHLY BODY – WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER!!!

So, what becomes of those who do NOT believe in, NOR receive Jesus as their Savior, NOR follow Him as Lord? Look:

1John 3:2-3

- (2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.
- (3) And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

If there is MERELY being “a good boy,” or, “a good girl,” then the righteousness F “PURIFICATION,” spoken of herein, is as filthy rags – literally, as bloodied menstrual cloths (**Isaiah 64:6** ...all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags... & **Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool) – and there is no forgiveness of sins by the efforts of our own righteousness.

Yet, there is more than having faith alone, as well, as there are works of faith, for “faith without works is dead” (James 2:17,20,26) – so then, there must be a PARTNERING WITH GOD that we live BY the Spirit, but that we also live IN, AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF, THE SPIRIT, ALSO!!!

Romans 8:13-14

- (13) For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but ***if* ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**
- (14) ***For*** [edit: “for” means, “**BECAUSE**”] **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

So, THAT is what it means to be LORD of your life, NOT MERELY SAVIOR ALONE!!!

And, IF NOT, the Scripture says this:

Romans 8:9

- (9) But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, *if* so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

AND what of that? How do we KNOW that we have His Spirit dwelling in us?

Romans 8:15-17

- (15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**
- (16) **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**
- (17) **And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him,** that we may be also glorified together.**

WHY SUFFER? Because:

Romans 8:3-8

- (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh:**
- (4) **That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**
- (5) **For** [edit: “for” means, “**BECAUSE**”] **they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit [edit: “do mind”] the things of the Spirit.**
- (6) **For** [edit: “for” means, “**BECAUSE**”] **to be carnally minded is death;** but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.
- (7) **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for** [edit: “for” means, “**BECAUSE**”] **it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**
- (8) So then **they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

WE SUFFER BY WALKING THIS OUT, IN THIS WORLD, TO DO OUR BEST TO REPENT OF OUR SINFUL WAYS AND LIVE UNTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, BY THE SPIRIT LEADING US!!!

IF NOT:

Romans 8:9

- (9) But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

What does it mean to “**dwell in you,**” according to the original language, Greek, that Paul was writing this in?

Here’s what Strong’s Concordance/Dictionary states the word “dwell” means, as translated from the original Greek language:

G3611

oy-key'-o

From G3624; **to occupy a house** that is, **reside** (figuratively **inhabit, remain, inhere**); **by implication to cohabit**: - dwell. See also G3625.

God doesn't just want His Spirit to come VISIT us, He wants to INDWELL US, RESIDE IN US, COHABIT WITH OUR OWN NEWBORN SPIRIT, AND TO OCCUPY US!!!

HE WANTS TO "LIVE IN" EACH OF US!!! HE WANTS TO "LIVE" "INSIDE" YOU!!!

SO, WHAT IF, BECAUSE OF OUR OWN CHOICE, HE DOESN'T DO THAT?!!

IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT IF WE DON'T ALLOW HIM TO DO THAT?!!

WHAT IF ONE DOESN'T RECEIVE HIM, NOR BELIEVE IN HIM TO THE CHANGING OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN HIM WITH A NEW SPIRIT *AND* HIS SPIRIT IN US, TOO, COHABITING US?!!

(see Ezekiel 36:26-27, which follows, and see also Ezekiel 11:19 and 18:31)

[Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)

(26) A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

(27) **And I will put my spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

So, here's the answer to THAT, and you would do very well to pay attention to THIS:

When one is not "regenerated" – which means, "born AGAIN" – he or she doesn't ever taste of the death that takes place in their spirit... and here is the evidence of what I am saying to you:

[James 2:26](#)

(26) For as **the body without the spirit is dead**, so faith without works is dead also.

Let me rephrase that:

The body, when it has no spirit within it, IS DEAD!

So, when might that be?

Well, one can easily conclude that, when one "keels over," he or she is dead, and the spirit is gone from the body, right?

ANSWER: True, BUT NOT ONLY THEN:

When an individual person is regenerated, his or her spirit he or she was given at birth is TAKEN OUT OF HIM/HER, *AND THEN* THAT ORIGINAL SPIRIT IS REPLACED WITH A NEW SPIRIT FROM GOD – ONE THAT IS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD'S OWN SPIRIT, WHICH ONE MUST YET RECEIVE, AS WELL!!!

SO, WHEN THE PERSON IS “BORN AGAIN,” HIS/HER SPIRIT – IF ONLY FOR AN INFINITESIMAL PERIOD OF TIME – IS OUT OF HIS/HER BODY; AND THUS, HIS/HER BODY IS DEAD FOR THAT DURATION!!! HE/SHE IS THEREBY, SUBSEQUENTLY, REGENERATED ANEW... THAT IS, GIVEN A NEW SPIRIT!!!

So, when THAT occurs, the Christian Believer experiences the FIRST Death, and, again subsequently, when he or she dies the natural death, or is “changed” from mortal to immortal, he or she DIES THE SECOND TIME!!!

The Christian experiences SPIRITUAL DEATH FIRST, THEN NATURAL DEATH AFTERWARD!!!

So, it goes without saying, then, as you might be able and inclined to reason already, that the UNSAVED UNBELIEVER does NOT die spiritually FIRST, but rather, it is his or her BODY that dies FIRST. *THAT LEAVES THE SPIRITUAL DEATH FOR THE LATTER END OF HIS OR HER LIFE!!!*

So, how do we know that this is the truth?

Let’s read the words of the Revelation of John:

Revelation 20:6

(6) **Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such *the second death* hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

AND:

Revelation 20:14-15

(14) **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is *the second death*.**

(15) **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

So, you see, it is ALL RIGHT THERE!!! NO ONE WHO HAS FORSAKEN GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO “SPIRITUAL LIFE” (AFTER THE DEATH OF THE BODY), BUT THEY WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE – FOR ETERNITY – AND THAT IS THE SECOND DEATH!!!

So, where does the Scripture say this again?

It says it in the very first verse I started with, and quoted for you, only one doesn’t normally see it in that light:

Hebrews 9:27

(27) **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

THE FIRST DEATH, “ONCE TO DIE,” IS A REFERENCE TO THE NATURAL DEATH, WHICH WILL OCCUR ONCE!!! OR, IT IS A REFERENCE TO THE SPIRITUAL DEATH OF THE BELIEVER, WHICH WILL ALSO OCCUR JUST ONCE!!!

AND THEN, IN EITHER CASE, THERE IS THE JUDGMENT!!!

For the UNBELIEVER, the Judgment IS “THE LAKE OF FIRE” – FOREVERMORE!!!

For the BELIEVER, however, THE JUDGMENT WAS ALREADY DECIDED AT CALVARY!!! WE TOOK ON THE NEW NATURE WHEN WE TOOK ON THE DEATH OF THE SPIRITUAL MAN, AND WE ARE A NEW CREATION:

2Corinthians 5:17

(17) Therefore ***if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

Philippians 1:21

(21) For to me ***to live is Christ, and to die is gain.***

Galatians 2:20

(20) ***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

So, the plan of God is for each of us to LIVE IN THE SPIRIT AND THUS TO CRUCIFY THE PASSIONS OF THE FLESH:

1Peter 4:1-2

- (1) ***Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;***
- (2) ***That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.***

IS THAT YOU????!!!!!!

IF NOT, IT STARTS WITH EZEKIEL 18:31:

Ezekiel 18:31

(31) Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and ***make you a new heart and a new spirit:*** for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

When we CHOOSE to turn to God IN REPENTANCE FOR OUR SINS, WE CHOOSE TO MAKE WITHIN OURSELVES A NEW HEART... AND THEN WE CAN MAKE US A NEW SPIRIT, AS WELL!!!

And here's what God says about HIS PART IN THAT PROCESS:

Ezekiel 36:26

(26) ***A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.***

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU... WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO WANT FROM HIM!!!

AND WHAT IS THAT?

ANSWER: TO HAVE YOUR STONY HEART REMOVED – THE ONE THAT CAN'T COMMUNE WITH HIM IN PEACEFUL FELLOWSHIP, ***BY MEANS OF HIS GIVING YOU A HEART THAT SEEKS AFTER HIM TO KNOW HIM*** – AND THEN, TO REPLACE IT WITH “A HEART OF FLESH;” WHICH IS NOT THE FLESHLY HEART OF THE BODY, ***BUT A HEART HAVING THE TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION THAT HE HAS WITHIN HIS HEART FOR EACH ONE OF US...***

...THE SAME TENDERNESS AND COMPASSION (THAT IS, THE LOVE) THAT CAUSED HIM TO TAKE ON HIMSELF A BODY OF FLESH, AND TO SUFFER AND DIE ON A CROSS – FOR EACH ONE OF US WHO WOULD RECEIVE HIM, AFTERWARD!!!

The questions, then, remain:

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE YOURSELF A NEW HEART TOWARD GOD, AND, THEREBY, DIE THE DEATH OF YOUR CARNAL AND SINFUL SPIRIT FIRST, OR, ARE YOU GOING TO DIE IN THE BODY FIRST?

OR, ON THE CONVERSE SIDE OF THAT COIN:

ARE YOU GOING TO BE JUDGED WITH THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST AS PAYMENT FOR YOUR BROKEN, SINFUL NATURE, AND THEN BE GIVEN SPIRITUAL LIFE ETERNAL, OR, ARE YOU GOING TO BE JUDGED WITH THE JUDGMENT OF “THE SECOND DEATH”/“LAKE OF FIRE,” FOR ETERNITY????!!!!

THE CHOICE IS SOLELY YOURS!!!

Hebrews 9:27

(27) And as ***it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

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