

LIVING Souls

EXPLORING HOW GOD'S BREATH IN US IMPACTS OUR ETERNAL DESTINY

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

~ Genesis 2:7 ~

Many believers I have known have passed sweetly, with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts and no pain in their bodies. This is a blessing indeed not only for the individual, but also for the family. But what about the others? What do we do with the deaths of those who passed in less-than-ideal situations?

COMMON QUESTIONS...

IS IT WRONG TO WANT TO DIE?

At least five Bible examples record godly persons who were discouraged to the point of longing for death.

- ELIJAH _____ — emotional exhaustion after great victory (1 Kings 19:3, 4)
- JOB _____ — physical and personal affliction for no apparent reason (Job 3:1-10)
- JEREMIAH _____ — loneliness in his spirit (Jeremiah 20:11-18)
- JONAH _____ — sinful choices (Jonah 4:1-3)
- PAUL _____ — pressure and persecution (2 Corinthians 1:3-8)

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear? ~ Proverbs 18:14 (KJV)

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. ~ Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)

We could also consider this question from the perspective of cause-and-effect:

- PHYSICAL _____ — exhaustion, chronic disease, sleep deprivation, deficiencies, medical treatment
- MENTAL _____ — responsibilities of work or home, unique stress, childhood trauma, intense loneliness
- EMOTIONAL _____ — family tragedy or trauma, intense personal loss
- SPIRITUAL _____ — Physical, mental, and emotional cause certainly affect our spirit. But perhaps there is also a purely spiritual problem rising from sinful choices and resulting guilt.
- MEDICAL _____ — Appropriate medication can often help physical conditions, and sometimes they assist even in mental or emotional situations. But they cannot directly effect the soul for spiritual good. These are not our strength, nor our Saviour.

WHY DID SOMEONE I LOVE DIE VIOLENTLY?

Jesus addressed this question in Luke 13:

1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ~ Luke 13:1-5 (NKJV)

He taught that neither the spiritual or physical realm can bring damnation upon one's soul:

1. OCCULT PRACTICE _____ involving blood cannot touch our eternal soul (13:1-2)
2. TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE _____ cannot touch our eternal soul (13:4)

Besides the barbaric and treacherous murder of our Lord Jesus Christ, there are several instances of godly people dying violently. Not only were these all God's children, but in each case they are spoken of as being fondly loved by God:

1. Many Old Testament PROPHETS _____ (Hebrews 11:35-40)
2. PETER _____ and most of the Apostles (John 21:17-19)
3. Present day MARTYS _____ (Rev 6:9-11)

IF A CHRISTIAN COMMITS SUICIDE, ARE THEY STILL SAVED?

The Bible records several individuals who committed suicide and/or euthanasia. Some were believers and some were not. In each case the manner of their death is not indicative of their spiritual condition.

The common perception that in suicide a person damns their souls is often due to un-biblical church teachings. Let's consider this further...

SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA

Job 12:9-10 (KJV) ~ 9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? 10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

EUTHANASIA DIFFERS FROM SUICIDE

“Euthanasia” is from two Greek words meaning GOOD DEATH. It is usually discussed in the context of ASSISTED SUICIDE, and is often presented favourably as an act of mercy to someone who is already experiencing intense pain and has no hope of recovery.

In the medical field there are two types of Euthanasia; the third is only discussed in humanistic philosophy:

1. PASSIVE Euthanasia — When medical practitioners comply with the patient's *refusal to receive* medical assistance and treatment is withheld.
2. Active Euthanasia that is VOLUNTARY — With assistance from a physician, the patient cause his or her own death; physician-assisted suicide (legal in Switzerland and the USA states of California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Vermont)
3. Active Euthanasia that is NON-VOLUNTARY — this is almost universally considered murder, but in the upper levels of humanistic academia is beginning to be proposed for non-contributing citizens (elderly and invalid). The logic used is very similar to the discussion of abortion.

SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA IN SCRIPTURE

1. ABIMELECH (Judges 9:54) — Dying of a skull fracture during a siege ordered his armour bearer to slay him.
2. SAMSON (Judges 16:25-31) — Killed himself to avoid being 'made sport of' by the Philistines
3. SAUL and his Armour bearer (1Samuel 31:3-6) — Wounded and defeated in the battle with the Philistines, asked his armour bearer to kill him. When he refused, Saul fell on his own sword. The armour bearer did likewise
4. AHITHOPHEL (2Samuel 17:1,23) — Plotted to overthrow David. When his plan failed, he hanged himself
5. ZIMRI (1 Kings 16:18) — After loosing the throne in a coup by Omri, he burned down the palace with himself inside
6. JUDAS (Matthew 27:4-5) — Hung himself after betraying Jesus.
7. The JAILER (Acts 16:26-29) — assuming the prisoners escaped, attempted suicide

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY

Acts 16 (NKJV)

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

1. DO THYSELF NO HARM.

2. BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BE SAVED.

3. GET HELP.

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