

THE FEAR OF DEATH

Hebrews 2:14-15

Jeff Schreve

“The fear of death haunts the human animal like nothing else; it is the mainspring of human activity.” Ernest Becker

*Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and **might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.** Hebrews 2:15*

People struggle with the fear of death in four main areas:

1. People fear dying and going to hell.

A. The moment you truly receive Jesus, you are saved.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

B. The moment you truly receive Jesus, you are secure.

*And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; **but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.** Matthew 12:32*

*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24*

2. People fear dying and leaving behind loved ones.

A. Make preparations for your unknown departure.

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8

B. Trust God to care for your loved ones.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:10

3. People fear that their loved ones will die.

A. Beware that protection does not become overprotection.

B. Trust God and be grateful for every day.

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21

4. People fear the pain of dying.

* Remember that He will never leave you.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Q. Are you ready for death?