

Bible Truths
When
Confronting Death

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Bible Truths When Confronting Death

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The Bible gives hope and strength when we face our own end in life or as we grieve the loss of a person we love. The purpose of this material is to classify Bible passages that sustain us in bereavement. These important selections also train us in ministry to others in counseling or making funeral speeches.

Texts that Help when Facing Death

We have limits, but God is Almighty, All-Knowing, All-Present and eternal.

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** 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. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 34:4-8, 17-19

4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. **5** They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed. **6** This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. **7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. **8** O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! **17** The righteous cry, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. **18** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 46:1-2, 10

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. **2** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; **10** “Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 121

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? **2** My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. **3** He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. **4** Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **5** The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade on your right hand. **6** The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. **7** The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. **8** The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.

Isaiah 40:25-31

25 “To whom then will you liken Me that I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. **27** Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”? **28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. **29** He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. **30** Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, **31** Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Matthew 6:25-34

25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? **27** “And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? **28** “And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, **29** yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! **31** “Do not worry then, saying, ‘what will we eat?’ or ‘what will we drink?’ or ‘what will we wear for clothing?’ **32** “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Romans 8:28-39

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, Who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or

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distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bible Texts Useful at the Moment of Death

A theologian could argue that death is “holy.” In the Bible holiness refers to separation and the presence of God (For example, the Ark of the Covenant was separated from the people because of God’s glorious presence.) At the time of death a believer is likewise separated unto the presence of God. As we say goodbye to the person, and perhaps gather around his or her body, we must also think of the present reality of the throne room of God above.

Isaiah 6:1-3

1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. **2** Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Luke 16:22

22 “Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom ...

Revelation 5:1-12

1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” **3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. **4** Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; **5** and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” **6** And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. **7** And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **10** “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Bible Comfort After Death

The brevity of life causes spiritual reflection.

Job 1:21

21 He said, “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.”

Psalm 39:4-5

4 “Lord, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am. **5** “Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; surely every man at his best is a mere breath. Selah.

Psalm 103:15

15 As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

Psalm 90: 10, 12

10 As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away **12** So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

James 4:14

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

1 Timothy 6:7

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

The Insignificance of Suffering (Compared to Eternal Glory)

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 4:7, 17-18

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; **17** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Revelation 14:13

13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Death's Defeat by the Lord Jesus Christ

Psalms 23:4

4 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.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; **57** but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 Therefore, since 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, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

God Numbers a Person's Days

Job 14:5

5 “Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; and his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.

Psalm 139:16

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

What happens at the death of a person who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

Luke 23:42-43

42 And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” **43** And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

2 Corinthians 5:8

8 We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23

23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

Promises that Believers will be Resurrected

Job 19:26

26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God;

John 5:25-29

25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. **55** “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; **57** but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with

the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-16

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Revelation 20:6

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Reunion with Departed Loved Ones in the Heavenly City

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

John 14:1-6

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** “In My Father’s house are many dwelling

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places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. **4** “And you know the way where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” **6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Revelation 21:2-4

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Revelation 22:1-5

1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, **2** in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; **4** they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. **5** And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Hope and Comfort for those who Remain

The Bible defines death as separation not the end of existence. Separation from a beloved person hurts as we see in Jesus' own example after Lazarus died. John 11:35 says, “Jesus wept.” Yet, while death is grievous, Christians should not sorrow “as

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though who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:18). God’s Word gives us strength to recover and continue.

► **God’s Peace**

Isaiah 26:3

3 “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace,
Because he trusts in You.

John 14:1, 27

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me **27** “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Philippians 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

► **God’s Love, Care, and protection** (See also Psalms 23 and 121 above).

Isaiah 40:11

11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Psalms 34:4, 6-8

4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears **6** This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. **7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. **8** O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalm 55:22

22 Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. **30** “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

John 10:9, 11, 27-30

9 “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture **11** “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep **27** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. **29** “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. **30** “I and the Father are one.”

Romans 8:28, 31, 35, 37-39

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 5:7

7 Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Hebrews 13:5

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

► **Strength in God**

Joshua 1:9

9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Job 5:17-19

17 "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. **18** "For He inflicts pain, and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal. **19** "From six troubles He will deliver you, even in seven evil will not touch you.

Psalm 46:1, 10

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble **10** "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Isaiah 40:28-31, 41:10

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. **29** He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. **30** Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, **31** yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they

will walk and not become weary **41:10** 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Nahum 1:7

7 A stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.

► **Directions for the Future**

Psalm 32:8

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

► **Counting Blessings even in Times of Pain**

Psalm 103:1-2

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. **2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

► **God as the Source of Satisfaction (Joy)**

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! **5** Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. **6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. **9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 16:24

24 “Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

1 John 1:4

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

► **Faith**

Psalms 37:5

5 Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalms 56:3-4

3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. **4** In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

Final Thoughts

The Word of God calls death the “last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26), and says only Christ has power to defeat death. At a time of bereavement, we have no other place to go. Peter said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

The verses in this booklet come not from a pastor, a church, or a denomination. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior with such otherwise unbelievable promises. He has the power to keep them and would never lie to us about such serious issues. After the guarantee of a heavenly home, He also said, “if it were not so I would have told you” (John 14:2).

An invitation ...

If you have never placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, then one of God’s purposes in allowing suffering in your life would be the experience of needing God’s help. Ultimately, everyone runs out of answers and must look to God for deliverance.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is reasonable because He is trustworthy. He would never mislead us. In the Bible He claims to be God the Son who died for our sins on the cross and rose again. By dying on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins. He calls us to personal faith in Him promising to give forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus Himself said, “For this is the will of my Father that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I myself will raise Him up on the last day” (John 6:40). He also made the bold assertion, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6).

Please respond to Jesus’ offer by placing your faith in Him as Savior. You can best do this in a prayer that expresses faith in Him and His death on the cross, “Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

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