

## **Achieving Long Life Over Death**

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### **Scripture References**

Hosea 4:6	Colossians 2:14, 15, <i>NLT</i>
Revelation 1:18	Romans 8:32
1 Corinthians 15:26, 55	Romans 16:20
Matthew 28:18, 19	John 10:10
Psalms 82:5, <i>MSG</i>	Luke 10:19
Psalms 82:5, <i>NLT</i>	Romans 11:29
Revelation 1:10-18, <i>NLT</i>	1 John 5:4
Matthew 27:52	Hebrews 4:2
John 19:30	Luke 7:12-15
Hebrews 2:14, 15	John 11:25
Hebrews 2:14, 15, <i>NLT</i>	Revelation 5:1-5
Matthew 27:50-53, <i>NLT</i>	Hosea 13:14
Colossians 2:14, 15	Job 3:25

### **Summary**

*Most people think they have no control over when they die; a mindset like that will defeat us. Studying the Scriptures gives us understanding and revelation in this area. Jesus has made everything available to us pertaining to a life of godliness, but He has also given us victory over death. Triumph over death is a subject that Christians seldom talk about. This needs to change. The finished works of Jesus—specifically His death and resurrection—mean that death is not final and does not need to be feared. He conquered it when He rose from the grave; as Christians, having faith in this gives **us** the same victory.*

#### **A. The world says we have no control over death; however, Jesus gave us victory over it.**

1. We may think we have no choice as to when we die. Most believers are of the mindset that when someone dies, it is “because their number is up.” However, because of Jesus, we have victory over death.
  - a. What we don’t know puts us in a position of suffering through something that Jesus has already given us victory over.
  - b. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6).
2. I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18).
  - a. Long life is God’s will for us; He wants us to enjoy life and live as long as we want to.
  - b. “Hell” in this context translates “to the grave.”
3. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death... O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (1 Corinthians 15:26, 55).
  - a. We must ask ourselves if we are ready to live, and if we want to fulfill our days. Long life is not a special offer, but a covenant right. We receive this right when we get born again.

- b. Under the Law of Moses, the fear of death was always present. However, Jesus' declaration that "It is finished" just before He died meant that the terror of death is over.
- 4. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:18, 19).
  - a. When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He declared His authority to them—this included the authority over death.

**B. God is the giver of life; His Word brings understanding on issues of life and death.**

- 1. Ignorant judges! Head-in-the-sand judges! They haven't a clue to what's going on. And now everything's falling apart, the world's coming unglued (Psalm 82:5, *MSG*).
  - a. We must trust God, the one who created life, over worldly "experts." We must *not* be Christians with our heads in the sand, who judge everything according to the world's philosophy.
  - b. Long life is available to us; however, if we do not know this, or have become convinced otherwise by worldly influences, we will not receive it for ourselves.
- 2. But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core (Psalm 82:5, *NLT*).
  - a. It is foolish to listen to anyone worldly who does not understand death in relation to God's Word.
- 3. It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. It said, "Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave (Revelation 1:10-18, *NLT*).
  - a. The keys to death and the grave are no longer in Satan's hands; *Jesus* now has them. Death no longer holds power over us.

**C. When Jesus was resurrected, He took the keys of death and the grave away from Satan.**

- 1. And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose (Matthew 27:52).
  - a. The keys of hell and death were used to open the graves of the dead saints who walked the streets. When Jesus obtained those keys, people who were previously dead came out of their graves and were seen walking around, alive; this was after His resurrection.
- 2. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (John 19:30).

- a. The point at which Jesus gave up the ghost was when the devil was forced to give up the keys.
- 3. We no longer have to fear death; Jesus has delivered us from it. He has the keys, and will use them to favor us.
  - a. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14, 15).
  - b. Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying (Hebrews 2:14, 15, *NLT*).
- 4. Jesus made an open show to demonstrate to everyone that He had defeated the devil and death on the cross.
  - a. Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people (Matthew 27:50-53, *NLT*).
  - b. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:14, 15).
  - c. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross (Colossians 2:14, 15, *NLT*).

**D. Jesus has conquered death and the grave. By faith, we have the same victory.**

- 1. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32).
  - a. Long life is part of the "all things" that Jesus made available to us. The devil cannot kill us because he no longer has the power to do so; he has been stripped of all authority.
  - b. Death is now under our feet; we must release our faith to take advantage of the covenant right we have to defeat it.
- 2. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen (Romans 16:20).
  - a. Because of Jesus Christ, we have been given the authority to trample the enemy.
  - b. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).
- 3. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).
  - a. The authority we have is real. We have power over any and all demonic influences and activities. There is nothing that Satan has that we do not have authority over.
- 4. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Romans 11:29).

- a. God has already given us the same authority that Jesus Christ holds; He is *not* going to change His mind and take it back. The victory is a gift from God that will not be revoked; we receive it by faith.
- b. ...And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4).
- c. If we do not release our faith in what is available to us, we will not benefit from it.
- d. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it (Hebrews 4:2).

**E. Life, not death, is God's will. Death evokes weeping, but Jesus delivered us from death.**

1. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother (Luke 7:12-15).
  - a. Jesus interrupted the funeral procession to demonstrate victory over death. There is no way death can proceed when Jesus intervenes.
  - b. ...I am the resurrection, and the life... (John 11:25).
  - c. "Weep not" is the verdict of redemption. Jesus came to wipe tears off people's faces. Death naturally evokes weeping, but we are redeemed from death.
2. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof (Revelation 5:1-5).
  - a. Jesus was the only one able to open the book and overcome death.
3. I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes (Hosea 13:14).
  - a. This is an Old-Testament promise of Jesus coming to take the keys of death and the grave; this prophecy has been fulfilled.
  - b. Every untimely death is because of the conscious or unconscious allowance of its victims. We must be conscious and aware of the authority we have over death.
  - c. The fear of death is a spiritual bondage that leads to the grave. Job lived in constant fear of something bad happening, and then it happened.
  - d. For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me (Job 3:25).
  - e. Countless lives have been lost because of this fear; thankfully, Jesus has delivered us from death, and from the fear of it.

Category: faith

Keywords: life, death, die, defeat, victory, triumph, resurrection, conquered