

## Doctrinal Studies

# Dying Well or Dying Grace

To study the subject of Dying Well, we look to the death of Abram who died at the age of 175 painlessly and satisfied with life (Gen. 25:5-8). For brevity's sake, we take a large outline and compress it into a smaller outline and scripture references designed for your study.

### I. **Categories of Death**

- A. *Spiritual death* means separation from God in time, the way we were born. The first death we received in life we receive at the point of life! We are born physically alive but spiritually dead (Rom 6:23; Eph. 2:1; Rom 5:11).
- B. *Physical death* means separation of body and soul, and spirit if saved. When the soul leaves the body, the person is officially dead—not a flat EKG but a flat EEG (Matt. 8:22; John 11:25; Phil. 1:21; II Cor. 5:1-8; Rom. 8:38, 39).
- C. *Second death* means separation from God forever—the final judgment of unbelievers (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 2:11, 20:11).
- D. *Positional death* means to be retroactively identified with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-15; Col. 2:12, 20, Col.3:3).
- E. *Carnal death* means to be out of harmony. When we sin we are out of fellowship (O/F). When we are restored to fellowship (RTF—I John 1:9) we are back in harmony (I/F—Rom. 8:6, 13; Luke 15:24, 32; James 1:15).
- F. *Operational death* means failure to produce divine or vertical good; at best producing only a lot of horizontal good or human efforts which do not count as spiritual production (James 2:26).
- G. *Oppositional death* means to live in opposition to God's plan under the continual influence of evil (I Tim. 5:6; James 2:26; Eph. 5:14; Rev 3:1).
- H. *Sexual death* means the inability to reproduce (Rom 4:13-21; Heb. 11:11, 12).

# Dying Well or Dying Grace (Continued)

## II. **Biblical Truths Related to Physical Death**

- A. Death is based on the sovereignty of God.
- B. Love is stronger than death (Song of Solomon 8:6; 14:27).
- C. God can and does prolong death under certain conditions. (Psa. 102:19-24; Prov. 14:27, Ps. 118:18).
- D. Women are to be taught to face the death of a companion.
- E. The Sin unto Death (SUD) never brings glory to God (Isa. 38:18).
- F. Death cannot be properly faced when there is no spiritual food in the soul (Lev. 1:19- 20).
- G. Dying well is a promotion for the mature believer (Phil. 1:21).
- H. God provides grace by which to die well (Amos 5:8).
- I. Often God delivers from death when death is close at hand (Job 5:20; Psa. 33:19; 56:13; 116:8, 9).

## III. **What do we mean by Dying Well or Dying Grace?**

- A. It is the death of a mature believer—a grace-abounding life (GAL) believer.
- B. Dying grace is the experience of physical death under ideal conditions of having happiness and blessing.
- C. Death is the transfer from time to eternity. Dying grace is the bridge between the blessings of maturity and the blessings of eternity.
- D. Dying grace is designed by God for believers with capacity.
- E. Dying grace removes the fear of death (Psa. 23).
- F. Dying grace is a blessing (Psa. 116:15).
- G. Exceptions to dying grace are dying under discipline (the sin-unto-death—SUD) and the Rapture.
- H. A description of dying grace is found in Job 5:19.

## IV. **Conclusions**

- A. A believer maturing in grace and knowledge has no cause for fear of death—or any facet of it.
- B. Death has been a cause of worry, anxiety, and fear for the human race, which is Satanic.
- C. Spiritual momentum eliminates worry about death.
- D. An understanding of God’s overall design removes one of the greatest sources of worry. Worry and fear of death—or anything else for that matter—removes trust, faith, and confidence, and makes growth impossible!
- E. There are two ways to leave this life: painlessly and quickly, or painfully and prolonged. It is God who chooses both the manner and the time of our departure.