

# The seven ways of being dead

For us human beings there is no death in the sense of extinction. There is only death in the sense of SEPARATION from God, our bodies and/or the world. We are spirits that continue to exist apart from God, and/or our bodies and/or the world.

I can thank Charles Caldwell Ryrie for this clarification in his notes about Romans 6:2 in my Ryrie Study Bible. In a matter of fact way he says "Death is SEPARATION, not extinction".

This new (to me) understanding of the meaning of the English words 'dead' and 'death' has been like a KEY to unlocking many mysteries of the Bible. The context of the biblical use of 'dead' or 'death' determines the kind of separation. We are always dead either to God or to the world or both.

I can think of at least seven ways of being dead. It is a matter of whether our spirits are SEPARATED from the Lord or the world, and whether or not we are also SEPARATED from our bodies.

*"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:6-8 AV)*

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 AV)*

## 1. Absent from the Lord and present with the world

Separated from God and still in the world. Dead to God in trespasses and sins.

*"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" (Ephesians 2:1 AV)*

*"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;" (Colossians 2:13 AV)*

Applies to most of the earth's population. Many will be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

## 2. Present with the Lord and crucified unto the world

The church, the body of Christ. Dead to the world, sin and the law.

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22-23 AV)

#### SAVED BELIEVERS ARE

- separated from the world;

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” (Galatians 6:14 AV)

- separated from sin and the law;

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2 AV)

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” (Romans 7:4 AV)

- hid (separated) with Christ in God in heavenly places yet still walking the earth;

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:” (Ephesians 2:5-6 AV)

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1-3 AV)

- strangers and pilgrims.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13 AV)

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” (I Peter 2:9-11 AV)

### 3. Absent from the Lord (though once present with the Lord) and delivered unto Satan

Separated from God and cast into a living hell while still in the world. Handed over to Satan. Probably once present with the Lord but have seriously offended him. May be present with the Lord again after chastising and cleansing. Dead to God in torment.

“For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.” (Psalms 86:13 AV)

“Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” (Proverbs 23:14 AV)

“And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.” (Jonah 2:2 AV)

“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” (I Corinthians 5:5 AV)

“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” (I Timothy 1:19-20 AV)

### 4. Absent from the Lord, absent from the Body and in hell

Separated from God and separated from the world. Spirits in hell whose bodies sleep. Dead to God and dead to the world.

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalms 9:17 AV)

“Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.” (Psalms 55:15 AV)

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28 AV)

### 5. Present with the Lord, absent from the body and in Paradise

Believers separated from the world but not from God and whose bodies sleep. Dead to the world, sin and the law.

“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.” (I Corinthians 15:16-18 AV)

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 AV)

Their spirits are in Paradise.

"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43 AV)

I have written elsewhere that I believe Paradise to be "Jerusalem which is above" and "Sion, the heavenly city" (see Stage 2 in my article 'Paul preached the kingdom of God') - the eternal dwelling place of the resurrected saints and the angels. This city will descend to the new earth after the destruction of the present heaven and earth (Revelation 21).

I have also written elsewhere that the saints that sleep will not have a "long and dull wait" for the rapture and their incorruptible bodies because of the absence of linear time (as we presently know it) in heaven.

It is my present understanding and hope that if I were to die today my spirit would be in Paradise with the Lord immediately and that even if the rapture is hundreds of years away in earth time, in heavenly time it will occur on the day that I die.

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8 AV)

## 6. Absent from the Lord, clothed with an eternal body and in the lake of fire

Eternal damnation. Eternally separated from God. In hell when it is cast into the lake of fire. The second death after the second resurrection. Dead to God and in eternal torment.

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:43-44 AV)

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." (Revelation 2:11 AV)

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

(Revelation 20:13-14 AV)

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8 AV)

## 7. Present with the Lord, clothed with an eternal body and in heaven

Eternal life. Believers caught up to “ever be with the Lord” and clothed upon with a heavenly body. Dead to the world, mortality and suffering.

“For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-4 AV)

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 AV)

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:51-55 AV)