

**Series:** Facing Your Fears  
**Message:** The Fear Of Death  
**Scripture:** Selected Texts  
**Speaker:** Randy Pope  
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### **Surprised by Suffering, R.C. Sproul, Finishing The Race, pg. 19**

"There are many things that I have said in my life that I desperately wished I had not said. None of my words are more shameful to me now than those. But words can no more be recalled than a speeding arrow after the bow string has snapped in full release.

My words were a rebuke to him. I refused to allow him the dignity of a final testimony to me. He knew he was dying. I refused to accept what he had already accepted with grace.

I was seventeen. I knew nothing of the business of dying."

### **Surprised by Suffering, R.C. Sproul, Finishing The Race, pg. 21**

"If my father taught me anything, he taught me how to die. The events I have just described have left an indelible mark upon me. For years after my father died I had the same recurring nightmare. I dreamed the same dream. The dream had a vivid intensity. I would see my father alive again. The beginning of the dream was thrilling. In my slumber the impossible became real. He was alive! But my joy would change quickly to despair as his appearance in my dream was always the same. He was crippled. He was paralyzed. He was hopelessly and helplessly dying. The scene was never of a healthy, vibrant father, but of a father caught in the throes of death.

I would wake up sweating with a sick empty feeling in the pit of my stomach. Only as I studied the Scriptures did I discover that death is not like that. Only when I discovered the content of the Christian faith did the nightmares finally cease."

### **Steve Jobs**

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important.

## **1. We Will Fear Death If We Face It Unknown**

### **1.1 Death Is Inevitable**

### **Hebrews 9:27**

*<sup>27</sup> And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

## 1.2 Death Is Not The End Of Life, But A Transition To A Different Life

- 1) At the moment of death there is an immediate awakening of consciousness of one's soul.

### **2 Corinthians 5:8b**

*<sup>8b</sup> ... and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*

- 2) There is an initial consignment of the soul.
- 3) There is a future resurrection of the body.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*<sup>13</sup> 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.*

*<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*

*<sup>16</sup> 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.*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

*<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

- 4) There is a final judgment and consignment of the body with the soul.

### **Matthew 25:31-34**

*<sup>31</sup> "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

*<sup>32</sup> "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;*

*<sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.*

*<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

## 1.3 As A Believer Death Should Be Viewed As The Ideal

### **Philippians 1:21-24**

*<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

*<sup>22</sup> But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.*

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

*<sup>24</sup> yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.*

## 1.4 To Die Young Is Not To Die Prematurely

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a**

<sup>1</sup> *There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—*

<sup>2a</sup> *A time to give birth and a time to die; ...*

### **Psalms 139:16**

<sup>16</sup> *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.*

## 1.5 Heaven Is The Perfect Place To Be

### **Revelation 21:4**

<sup>4</sup> *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."*

## 2. We Will Fear Death If We Face It Alone

### **Psalms 23:4**

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

