

In the Blink of An Eye

Death can come in the blink of an eye, or potentially we are forewarned that it is forthcoming, but please understand, death is not a punishment for Christians. The full penalty for a Christian's sin has been paid by Jesus Christ, and we will not experience God's wrath. God, in His wisdom, decided it's best that Christians not receive all the benefits of salvation at once. Christians still sin, get sick, suffer from natural disasters, fall prey to acts of evil and injustice, and die. All of these are the results of living in a fallen world under the curse of sin. The Bible tells us, **Romans 8:1**: "*Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" Before we go any further, let's be absolutely clear that none of us looks forward to our death; this is just a reality of life. After personal salvation, we begin our lifelong process of sanctification, a progressive work of God that helps us resist the sin of the world and become more Christlike in our lives. The apostle Paul tells us that although Christ defeated death when He rose from the dead, death will be the last result of sin to be removed from this fallen world. **1 Corinthians 15:25-26**: "*For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.*" In our sanctification process, preserving our lives and general comfort is not our highest goal. Obedience to God and faithfulness in every circumstance are far more important. Additionally, it's also important to remember that sickness, evil, injustice, or death are not simply "*natural,*" as non-Christians believe. These things are a direct result of a fallen, cursed, sinful world. With death, we know that the souls of believers are eternally happy in the presence of God, yet we still grieve the loss of a family member or friend. Our sorrow is not hopeless, for we know that the believer has gone to be with the Lord. Paul writes in **1 Thessalonians 4:13**: "*....do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope...*" As believers in Jesus, we are encouraged by the Bible not to fear our own death, knowing that after death we will be with Jesus Christ. Paul makes this clear in **2 Corinthians 5:8**: "*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*" And in **Philippians 1:23-24**: "*But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sakes.*" Here is a personal note to conclude this devotional. If you recognize that you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, have not invited Him into your life, have not asked Him to forgive your sin, and have not accepted His free gift of eternal life, this is a decision you should make now, as you read this devotional. You may not feel this way again, so while the Spirit of God is speaking to you, take this moment to invite and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.