

# **LIVING FOR ETERNITY**

## **LIFE ON EARTH IS A VAPOR**

Key Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:24-25, James 4:14, Psalm 39:4-5

Life on earth is a short gift given to us by God! To some, the number of years is 100, to others one, five, 15, 25, 50 or 80. There will be a generation of believers caught up in the rapture that will not know physical death, but we do not know the day nor the hour. We must be alert, living in light of knowing this: our days on earth are numbered, and through the lens of eternity they are few.

How many times do we hear of someone passing away and think of the resounding question, "Where are they now?" Life on earth is short, eternity is forever. Let's live for eternity!

1. Discuss a time or times you have been impacted by a sudden or unexpected death of someone you knew or knew of. How did it affect you?

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2. Knowing that your days here are numbered, what is important to you?

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## **THERE ARE ONLY TWO ETERNAL DWELLING PLACES**

Key Scriptures: 2 Cor. 5:10-11, Hebrews 9:27-28, Rom. 2:6-11, Rev. 20:11-15, John 14:1-6

Mankind is made to live forever. The ONLY part of us that dies is our fleshly body. Our spirit and soul live for eternity in our eternal body, in our eternal home. The Word tells us there are only two places that exist after this life, Heaven and Hell. There is only one way to the Father, and that is through His Son, Jesus Christ.

It is God's will that ALL would come into Heaven and be saved. This decision however, has been given to the choice of each individual person. Know Jesus, know life. No Jesus, no life. Now that you are born-again, you can have confidence that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life! Continuing in the truth, believing in the Son, knowing the Father, and living a life of obedience and consecration to Him removes all fear of eternal punishment.

1. What/Who is the ONLY way to the Father, and to eternal life? Discuss how you will stand for this truth in our culture.

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2. Who are you thinking of that needs to come to salvation? Let's pray for them now.

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Key Scriptures: Psalm 90:10-12, Ephesians 5:13-17, Colossians 3:1-4, Matt. 6:19-21, 1 Cor. 3:11-15

Knowing that our days on this earth are numbered, our goal is to live for eternity. Let us be taught by the Lord to number our days and gain a heart of wisdom. Let us forsake the things of earth, and pursue our relationship with Jesus like never before! Let us live in the newness of life, in thought, in speech and in action.

Everything of this earth will pass away and be burned up. The only thing we can bring to heaven with us is souls. Thank God, He has made us able ambassadors, to work with Him in leading souls into His kingdom. Living for eternity means laying down our own plans and ways, picking up our cross, and living 'Kingdom minded'. As we are living for eternity, we let our lights shine, and lead as many souls to HIM as we can!

1. Knowing that your words and works will go through fire, what is God convicting you to change?

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3. Are you willing to commit your life to being a soul winner for His Kingdom? Discuss.
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## FREEDOM FROM UNFORGIVENESS

Key Scriptures: Matthew 18:23-35, Matthew 6:14-15, 1 John 4:20-21

We are not afforded the "luxury" of holding a grudge or hating our brother, which is **no luxury at all.** Unforgiveness holds us hostage in a prison cell of torment, the weight of which will bring us to hell if un-dealt with. While forgiving others does not excuse their behavior, it releases us from the power their behavior once had over us.

Forgiving others from our heart is one of the biggest keys to living for eternity. God's presence will not abide within strife or unforgiveness. The good news is that He has given us the way out. You can forgive, you can release the past and you can be free. This is all through your love relationship with the Lord and growth in Him. Hide yourself in the love and mercy of your Heavenly Father.

If your heart is still pricked when you hear the name of someone who hurt you, it is time to forgive. This is the day to lay down all debts owed to you, and find freedom from the bondage of unforgiveness. This is the day to forgive, once and for all, from your heart!

1. While nailed to the cross, Jesus cried out, "Father forgive them" toward those who were crucifying Him. Being in Him, do you believe that you can forgive those who have hurt you?

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Prayer of Forgiveness: *Father, thank you for forgiving the inexcusable in me. Thank you for showing me mercy and giving me more chances than I deserve. I choose to forgive all those who have hurt me - family, friends, enemies, those near and far, those in my past and those in my present. I will not hold a grudge over someone whom you have forgiven. Jesus, your blood is enough. I release all those who have hurt me. I give them to You now. I ask you to forgive them, and I ask you to forgive me for hanging on to what I should have released. I release every burden of unforgiveness now, in Jesus Name, Amen.*