

No Fear of Death

1 Corinthians 15

Jim said:

"Pastor, I know I am saved. I know that when I die, I'll go to heaven. But I'm afraid. I've never died before. I'm afraid of what death will be like. Can you help me?"

Steve replied:

"Jim, when I was young, I was afraid of the dark, especially any dark area in our house. I remember coming home at night with my family. My father knew about my fear of darkness.

“So, every time we came home, my dad would unlock and open the door, go inside and turn the light on. Then he'd turn around and say, 'Come on in, Steve, everything's fine.'

“I remember walking into our house in total peace because I knew that I could trust my father to take care of me. I didn't have to be afraid.”

"Jim, when Jesus came to this earth, He lived a sinless life so He could die for our sins. He gave His life as an atoning sacrifice for God's children and then He was buried. But three days later, Jesus walked out of that grave with the keys to death, hell and the grave itself in His hand.

“Jim, Jesus unlocked the door of eternity, went into the grave and turned the lights on for you.

Now He's saying, 'Jim, come on in, everything is fine.'"

Jim said:

"Pastor, I get it! I can see Jesus opening the door for me! He's turning the light on for me! He's saying, 'Come on in, Jim, everything is fine.' Jesus is the Light of the world! He's turned the light on in my grave! I can die without fear!"

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.
(1 Corinthians 15:42-44a)