

# “God’s Deliverance Through Death”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

## **Foundational verse**

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.
- God will make a way of escape.
- God will make you able to bear it.

## **Death as an escape**

Part 2 of this series discusses “Escape Through Death.”

It is important to realize that, when I talk about escape through death, I am certainly not talking about suicide. I am talking about the deaths that occur due to natural causes (whether age or disease), accidents or unfortunate violence from others.

## **Sorrow and distress are normal**

I want to state something very directly: It is “normal” to feel exceedingly sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Understand the following.

- Feeling exceeding sorrow and deep distress should not be desired.
- It is best that the condition of feeling exceeding sorrow and deep distress should not linger.
- Experiencing the conditions of exceeding sorrow and deep distress in small doses is not automatically sin.

■ Experiencing the conditions of exceeding sorrow and deep distress in small doses is actually “normal.”

Do you want me to prove it to you?

The Son of God did not sin, yet He experienced sorrow and deep distress in an intense moment of His life.

Matthew 26:37—“He [the Son of God] began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.”

Matthew 26:38—“Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.’”

Even though the condition of exceeding sorrow and deep distress is normal, please do not allow the condition to linger.

### **He dealt with it**

How did the Son of God overcome sorrow and distress?

- Matthew 26:39—He talked to the Father and accepted the Father’s will.
- Luke 22:43—He accepted angelic help.
- John 18:37—He concentrated on His purpose.

### **Overcoming strong discouragement**

Following are some biblical examples of people who successfully overcame strong discouragement. You will too.

- Numbers 11:11-15—Moses
- 1 Kings 19:4—Elijah
- Job 3:1-26—Job
- Jeremiah 20:14-18—Jeremiah
- Jonah 4:3—Jonah

### **Turning bad into good**

- Genesis 50:20—When people mean evil against us, God can direct it for good.
- Psalm 18:28—God will enlighten our darkness.
- Psalm 116:15—The death of the Lord’s saints is precious in His sight.
- Isaiah 57:1—Sometimes death is an escape from evil.

### **Two tremendous powers**

- 1 Corinthians 2:11—There is a wonderful human spirit, and there is a superior Spirit of God.

## Descriptions of life and death

- 1 Corinthians 15:18—Paul talked about falling asleep in Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-54—Paul talked about a change from corruption to incorruption and from mortal to immortal.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16—Even though the outward is perishing, the inward is to be renewed day by day.
- 2 Corinthians 4:17—Our trials should be considered light, because they are temporary, and they are building toward eternal glory.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18—There is a difference between the things that we see (temporary) and the things that are not seen (eternal).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13—Paul talked about falling asleep but reminded brethren to have the hope of the resurrection.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17—Paul said the dead in Christ would rise first, to be followed by those who are alive.
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8—When Paul knew that his death was near, he kept seeking to please His Heavenly Father and continued to look forward to the Lord's appearing.

## Opportunity to serve

Let's conclude with a few verses in Philippians 1—which show that death should be considered a personal blessing, and remaining alive is an opportunity to serve.

Philippians 1:21—"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:23—"For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

Philippians 1:24—"Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you."