

3rd Quarter 2015

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

LIFE AND DEATH PART 2

by Annette Capps

WRONG THINKING WRONG SPEAKING

by Charles Capps





LIFE & Death — Part 2

by Annette Capps

In part 1 of this article in the last quarter newsletter, I wrote about the plan of satan to destroy my mother's life before her time on earth was fulfilled. She received a liver transplant 22 years ago and has a marvelous testimony about how God spoke to her to accept a new liver as part of His healing plan.

As we all know, physical life here on earth is limited and everyone will transition

from earthly life at some point. Jesus was an exception and those who are raptured will not experience death.

There is no pat answer to "why" anyone lives or dies. I do know there are choices involved. Psalm 91:16 says "**With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.**" How long is long life? Dad used to say, "Live as long as you are satisfied. When you are fully satisfied you are done here, then leave." It takes as much or more faith to die than to live. The reason I say that is, there is a desire born in every creature to continue to live. It takes a lot of faith to leave family and friends and all that is familiar, including your body and go someplace you've never been before!

Exit at the Best Time

God told Hezekiah in II Kings 20:1 to set his house in order, for you shall die, and not live. He prayed and God granted him 15 more years. So, did God change his mind? It appears that multiple problems occurred as a result of his extended life. The difference here is God said. God didn't say, "If you don't change, you will die." God just said, "You will die."

God granted him more time because he *asked*, even though the long term affects were not good. But that was Hezekiah's choice to stay.

**DEATH AND LIFE ARE
IN THE POWER OF THE
TONGUE. (PROVERBS 18:21)**

As a result of Hezekiah's increased life span, he made decisions that had terrible consequences. The first thing he did after his return to health was to make the mistake of opening his house and treasury to the King of Babylon and reveal all that he had.

"...Hezekiah rejoiced and welcomed the embassy, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver, gold, spices, precious ointment, his armory,

and all that was found in his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them" 2 Kings 20:13 AMP

This is the equivalent of the President of the US giving an enemy of the US a tour of Fort Knox, military bases, weapons, and all secrets.

Now Isaiah, who delivered the original message of death, came to Hezekiah, and told him the results of his lack of wisdom in exposing all the King had. "**Behold, the time is coming when all that is in your house, and that which your forefathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon...**" 2 Kings 20:17 AMP

You would think he would regret his pride and bragging, but instead he said that this word of the Lord was good because it meant he would live in peace and the destruction would happen after he was gone. He did not care what happened to God's people, only himself.

Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, The word of the Lord you have spoken is good. For he thought, Is it not good, if [all this evil is meant for the future and] peace and security shall be in my days?" 2 Kings 20:19 AMP

In addition, as a result of his increased life span, his son Manasseh was born who followed him and reigned as king. 2 Kings 21:9 AMP says that, "... **Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations did whom the Lord destroyed before the Israelites.**" Manasseh was not passive, he actively made idols, images, and offered his own son as an offering to Molech and encouraged all of Israel to follow other gods and shed innocent blood. God had to wipe out Jerusalem because of him.

So... longer life is not always better... a well-lived life that blesses others and furthers God's plan (no matter how short or long) is something to be desired.

Death at an Early Age

No one has answers as to "why" some die at an early age because we do not know every possible factor between God and that spirit being (soul). And yes, that includes babies and children. Sometimes we fail to realize that a baby, although physically and mentally immature, is a fully developed spirit being who just came from the presence of God. It takes years of training in "earth" ways for them to "forget" the intimate knowledge of God and to put aside that intuitive, instinctive

knowledge about good and evil. Children are so much more in tune to people's motivations and intents (either good or evil). As they are trained to depend more and more upon their intellect and "human rules of behavior", the intuition and instinct begins to be ignored. We all know what an uphill battle it is to pay attention to that "still small voice" in this hectic life.

So if a child or baby who has so recently come from the presence of God encounters something in life such as an illness or accident and suddenly finds themselves in the presence of God with an option of staying there, do you think they would possibly be inclined to stay and not come back to earth?

As I said, I don't know all the reasons, but I think it may be a good question. After all, as difficult as it is to lose someone you love, there is nothing that can be compared to the love of the Heavenly Father. I can only imagine that it would be a difficult decision knowing the love of your family wanting you to return yet being in the Presence of the Creator who is love.

That's the reason I have always been supportive and willing to release loved ones

to move on when their time has come. I don't want anyone to think they need to stay here because of me.

Having said that, I am very opposed to someone leaving when it is not their time to go. To leave the earth when it is not your time interrupts and disturbs not only the dynamics and synchronicity of family and friends but everything and everyone on earth even if they are not aware of it. God sent you here for a purpose and even if you never know what that is, you are a cog in the wheel of life that makes your family, your church, your job, your state, your nation, and your world keep turning. An untimely death is the most difficult type of death to deal with. No one can replace you.

**I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU
LIFE AND DEATH... CHOOSE
LIFE! (Deuteronomy 30:19)**

No one leaves this earth without leaving a void or a hole. When you leave in God's timing, circumstances will be such that the space you leave will be filled appropriately. It may not feel that way to those who are left behind, but I find there is more peace and acceptance in God's timing.

Making the Choice to Go or Stay

A few years ago, a family friend's teenage son was severely injured and suffered brain injury in a gun accident. As you can imagine, we all prayed and interceded on his behalf for healing and restoration. They were all believers and standing in faith that he would live and not die. A week or so after the accident I was driving down the interstate when I suddenly had a vision. I could see 2 places at once-- I could see the road but I could also see in the spiritual realm. I saw this young man in a place I would describe as heaven, but instead of being surrounded by family, he was talking to a group of 4-6 spiritual beings. I say "spiritual beings" because they did not look like the angels I had seen but they were from the presence of God. They were discussing with him about his choice to either return to earth or stay there. He appeared torn-- his family desperately wanted him back and yet the choices he had before him were important. He turned and saw me and I called his name. I told him to listen carefully; they would help him know what to do. I assured him his family would be okay and support his decision even though they loved him and would miss

him. Even though it would be hard, he should make the best decision he could. He turned back and the vision was gone.

I did not share this with the family until several months later, but within a day of that vision, the family released him from this life and he entered heaven.

It certainly was not God's will for this young man to be in an accident, however, it appeared that he was given the choice whether to stay in heaven. Many who have testified of dying and being revived have talked of how hard it was to come back here to this life.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:22-23 **"But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor, yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."**

I don't know if the young man knew his life was going to be short, probably not, but once the sudden accident occurred, he was faced with the decisions that few have ever encountered, and he had to decide.

We don't decide to die because of depression, illness, anger or confusion. There is

mental illness just as there is physical illness and it must be treated. Treatment could require prescription medication, psychiatric intervention, supplements, and supportive therapy. Whatever it takes to be healed and well is what you must do, so you can get well and want to live. There can be a clear spiritual signal when you know it is time to go, just a knowing, that you have done what you came here to do and it is time to wrap things up – get your house in order so to speak. But this knowing brings peace after fulfillment of life and is not a result of depression or emotional distress.

Death is an enemy. I Corinthians 15:25-26 says, **"For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."**

Many years ago at the beginning of my ministry a friend's mother was ill, and being full of faith and the miracle power of God, I drove to her home to pray for her. I fully expected the anointing to come upon her, and her to be healed. When I arrived she was alone and I asked if I could pray for her. As I laid hands on her, the anointing of the Holy Spirit came upon me and I began to

pray for the power of God to come upon her and strengthen her. I must have prayed 10-15 minutes and the entire time, the anointing was flowing through me and the words kept coming but not one time did the word "healing" or "be healed" come out of my mouth. As a matter of fact, my mind was fighting me. I kept trying to pray the prayer of healing but the Holy Spirit would not let me do it. The entire time I was hearing "Let her go, she's going to heaven soon. Let her go. Let her go." And she did, just a few weeks later. I did not know why and God never told me directly other than I had a knowing on the inside of me that a decision had been made on some level between her and God and I should let it go. (This type of situation has only happened 2-3 times in 40 years of Ministry.)

Damage can be done when people press through and ignore what the Holy Spirit is telling them. A couple who pastored a church went to the home of one of their members whose baby was not expected to live. As they laid hands on the child, the Holy Spirit told the wife to not pray for healing but pray a general prayer of comfort. The husband ignored that guidance, and prayed for a miracle of healing and declared in "faith" to the couple that their

baby was now healed. The child died the next day and the parents not only had to deal with the loss of their child, but also the loss of their faith in their pastor and eventually lost faith in God.

It is so vitally important to listen to God, give heed to the Holy Spirit, and obey what you hear – whether it makes sense or not.

If my mother had not listened to God and agreed to a liver transplant as part of her healing, she would not be alive today. It is not our place to judge or condemn ourselves or others when healing is not manifest. Go as far as your faith will take you and if you need medical help to continue healing, use your faith that God will guide you, everyone who touches you will be anointed by God, and treatment will be successful.

John G. Lake said it best: *"... the purpose of Christ's redemption is sinlessness, sickness, and ultimately deathlessness. Bless God, that is His ideal for man. A man to be as perfect as Jesus Christ was perfect. Matt 5:45. We may never get one half or one quarter of the way toward the ideal. But never try to degrade God's purpose and bring it down to your level. But by the grace of God put the standard up there where Jesus put it, and then get as near it as you can."* ■

Almost every moment of every day you are faced with choices, most are minor and some are major life-changing decisions.

I am offering these 2 series to help you open the door to good decisions and have confidence in God when the life-changing choices come up.

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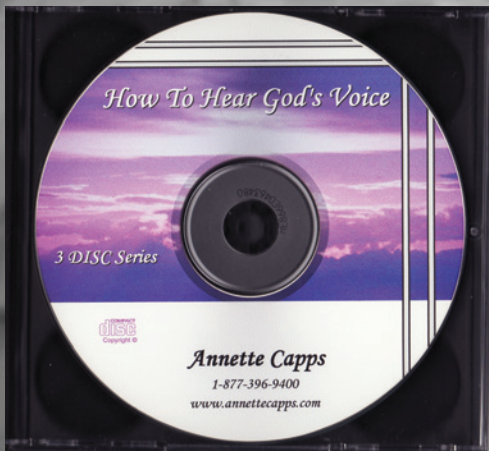
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WRONG THINKING WRONG SPEAKING

by Charles Capps

There is no doubt that problems come to everyone in this life. All of us face troubles, tests, trials, and opportunities to enter into calamity. But God's will is that we resist these problems by the power of His Word – the word of deliverance. God's will is that His angels deliver us. Psalm 91:11-12 KJV tells us that He gives His angels charge over us: *In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.* If this is God's will, then why do so many Christians experience such defeat?

There are three links in the chain of defeat: **wrong thinking, wrong speaking, wrong praying.**

Wrong Thinking

You are what you are, not because of your experiences in life, but because of what you *think* and *believe* about your experiences. Many Christians feel sorry for themselves and are wallowing in self-pity. They think God is against them, when actually the devil is doing it and blaming it on God! That kind of thinking leaves the door wide open to the devil. So many Christians use what happened to Job as their excuse. They said, "But look what God did to Job!" What *did* God do to Job? He gave Job twice what he had before. **It was the devil that stole from Job, not God. It was**

the devil that caused all the problems, **not God**.

Job made 74 false accusations against God because he really believed God was at fault. But Job could not read the first chapter of the Book of Job and find out that the devil was behind all his problems. Here are some of the statements Job made about God:

Though God slay me, yet will I trust him. It was admirable that Job felt this way, but he was wrong in his thinking. God was not the problem.

He taketh me by the nap of the neck and shaketh me... He runs up on me like a giant. No, that was not God; it was the devil.

He sets darkness in my path. God did not set darkness in Job's path; but Job thought He did. Job was sincere, but he was sincerely wrong!

Two factors caused Job more problems than the actual troubles he had: *wrong thinking and wrong believing*.

Many precious people are crippled for life because of their wrong thinking. It cripples their ability to function in the wisdom of God and flow in the Spirit of God. There is no darkness in God, so He could not have put darkness before Job. The Bible says that God is light and in

him is no darkness at all. Every good and perfect gift comes down from above – from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Right and Wrong Choices

When you **think** wrong, you **believe** wrong. When you **believe** wrong, you **speak** and **act** wrong. **Wrong thinking** causes you to make **wrong choices**. The reason there is so much wrong thinking in the earth today is because people do not know what God has said. Deliverance from these things only comes about through the knowledge of God and of His Word.

When people believe tragedy is working good in their lives, and that problems and troubles are really making them strong, they are opening the door to the devil. They are allowing satan to have a party at their expense. They will not stand against it because they believe it is from God; so they just let the devil run all over them. Then God gets the blame for all of it!

The deception of the devil is designed to destroy you by making you believe it is God's will that these things happen to you. This is why the doctrine of praising God for everything that

happens to you is so dangerous. It actually opens the door to the devil, and I am sure that God does not appreciate being thanked and praised for putting cancer on someone. **Satan's greatest tool is deception.** If he can deceive you into believing whatever comes to you is from God, you will not resist it.

Many good Christians are deceived and think satan is perfecting the saints. God did not send the devil to perfect the saints. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are perfectly capable of doing that. Ephesians, chapter 4, tells us that the five-fold ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) was provided by God for the perfecting of the saints.

If God were using sickness, disease, troubles, problems, car wrecks, and tragedies to perfect the saints, then when a member of the five-fold ministry comes to town for a meeting, his advertisement should read something like this:

Brother So-and-so is coming to town! As an apostle of God, he will give some car wrecks, some cancer, some lung disease, and some marriage problems for the perfecting of the saints.

That sounds ridiculous, I know, but it is no more

ridiculous than to believe God is using the devil to perfect the saints. God is *not* using the devil! He is using the five-fold ministry, equipped with the Holy Spirit and the power of God's Word! What does the five-fold ministry use to perfect the saints? The Word of God.

The Word of God

Jesus said, *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.* (John 15:3). Paul said that we are cleansed with the washing of water by the Word. (Ephesians 5:26.)

If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured . . . (Isaiah 1:19.20). The children of Israel walked in disobedience and received a just recompense of reward. They never obtained the Promised Land, even though it was theirs.

If you believe the lies of the devil, you will **never** possess what belongs to you. **God has given you life and blessing. He has given to you all things that pertain to life and godliness.** But to enjoy that kind of life and godliness requires the knowledge of God.

Don't invite tragedy by the words of your own mouth – by agreeing with the devil, by agreeing with all

that is bad and evil. You can change it with *your words* and *God's Word*.

God will change your life. He will change your situation, if you will agree with Him.

You don't have to give up life. You don't have to give up **because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever: the Healer!**

The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy; but Jesus said. "I am come that you might have life and

have it more abundantly." Don't choose death; **choose life!** Don't choose sickness; **choose health!**

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.

Psalm 91:15-16 ■

(taken from the book: **How to Avoid Tragedy and Live a Better Life**)

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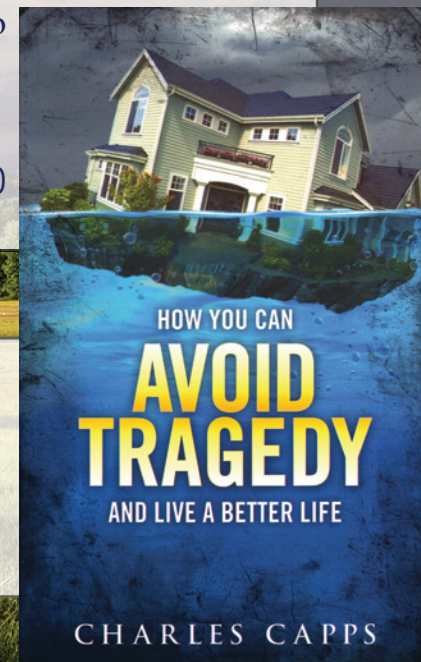
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