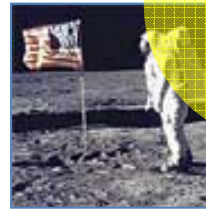


QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 6:23 death is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin
  - a. Cause
  - b. Wages
  - c. End
  - d. Partner
2. According to Hebrews 2:14 Satan has the power of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Sin
  - b. Death
  - c. Life
  - d. Righteousness
3. Satan gained this power when he succeeded in getting Adam and Eve to :
  - a. Sin
  - b. Break God's Law
  - c. Trust Satan
  - d. All of the above
4. When God warned Adam and Eve about the penalty for eating the forbidden fruit He shared his power of death with Adam and Eve. YES / NO
5. Adam and Eve gave up that privilege when they sinned YES / NO
6. Before Satan lied to them Adam and Eve did not fully trust God TRUE / FALSE
7. Satan gained control over mankind by \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Lying to them.
  - b. Threatening them.
  - c. Waiting patiently for them to sin.
  - d. Helping them when they were afraid.
8. Jesus destroyed that control when He willingly allowed Himself to be executed. YES / NO
9. Jesus was crucified because HE was / I am a sinner (circle one)
10. When a person is baptized into Christ's death they no longer have to fear their own death because death has lost its.
  - a. Way
  - b. Sting
  - c. hope
  - d. leader
11. Not everybody believes that but I do YES / NO

Finger Lakes Church of Christ: 607 708 4048  
fingerlakescoc.com  
PO Box 4917 Ithaca, NY 14852

# LIFE-SEARCH



*But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Deuteronomy 4:29

A LOOK INTO THE HEART OF GOD THROUGH THE STUDY OF HIS WORD

Part Eleven

## **The Failure of Fear**

## **Satan**

When we talked about Caiaphas (Lesson 9) we learned about his fear of failure. That is a major concern for all of us. No one wants to fail. Very often, however, the fear is worse than the actual failure. Fear is an extremely powerful phenomenon in this world. Psychiatrists are constantly studying this phenomenon and, along with prescribing medications, are advocating lifestyle changes that promote the joy of living over the fear of dying (Psychiatric Times June 2, 2009). If a person eats right, and exercises, and engages in some form of meditation (Eg. Yoga) their sense of well-being increases significantly.

Our Creator knows quite a bit about that. In the ancient world the average person got plenty of exercise, and in fact God had to prescribe a day of rest. He did lay down some pretty strict dietary laws in the Old Testament and He did command that people be engaged in prayer and worship, which is the best form of meditation. It is safe to say, however, that our world, today, is governed by fear and not just the fear of failure. Just the mention of "cancer" or "Terrorist" or "Earthquake" will cause our blood pressure to rise.

Now, imagine living in a world where it is impossible to die. In fact this is a world where even the concept of death does not exist. You would not fear cancer or terrorists or earthquakes because, again, there would be no such thing. In fact there would be absolutely no threat to

your well-being. You would be a perfect person in a perfect world. All you have to do is do away with death and you have such a world. To do that you would have to isolate the cause of death and destroy that cause, and that is exactly what Jesus came into this world to do.

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

Hebrews 2:14,15

This verse sums up everything we have said so far.

1. People live in fear of death.
2. That fear permanently enslaves us.
3. There is one who has the power of death and that is Satan
4. Jesus came to destroy Him.
5. To do that Jesus had to become flesh and blood like you and I.



Satan does not have the power to actually kill anyone; only God can do that. How does Satan have the “power of death”? He is responsible for tempting Adam and Eve into sin and the wages of sin is death.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:23

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* Genesis 2:16,17

In these verses we see that God has the power of death and that He warned Adam and Eve not to cause Him to use it. In effect He shared His power with Adam and Eve. So what did Adam and Eve do with that knowledge that they could bring death down on themselves? Apparently they stayed away from the tree that threatened their life for some time. They would have had no basis upon which to doubt God’s Words until they heard an alternative version. Satan was only too willing to give them one. He basically called God a liar.

*But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.* Genesis 3:4

So God had allowed them to have control over their destiny, but that meant they had to trust Him. In trusting God they allowed God to exercise His power for life over them. Now there was another whom

they might also trust. One said “you can have life if you do not eat from that one tree”. The other said “You can have life and eat from the tree. In fact you can have a better life if you eat from that tree.”

Adam and Eve decided to trust Satan’s words and death entered the world because they had disobeyed God. The Bible calls that “sin”. Paul explains that in detail in his letter to the Romans.

*Eg. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—* Romans 5:12

Ever since that day death has reigned through sin (Romans 5:17) and all the symptoms of death terrify us constantly. All of our diseases and disasters are just symptoms of our death state since we rebelled against God. Satan likes that because He is in control as long as we live in fear. We gave Him that control and he does not intend to give it back without a fight. But, as we have seen, God has taken steps to destroy Satan and rescue us from the fear of death. He has done that by isolating the cause of death and attacking it. He attacked it with the greatest force in the universe as we read in John 3:16.

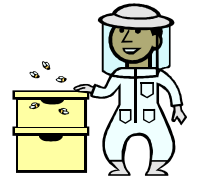
*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

We can rejoice with Paul as he proclaims Old Testament prophecy (Hoseah 13:14) that came true in Christ. From 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

*“O death, where is your victory?*

*O death, where is your sting?”*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Death has no power without sin and sin has no power without law. God’s law had been disobeyed by Adam and Eve and everyone else since then. Therefore death reigned and Satan was a success. Now that Jesus has taken the punishment for the breaking of the law (sin) death no longer reigns and Satan is a failure. The punishment was death, but Jesus rose from the dead. Because sin had no effect on Him, neither did death. That is why His apostles baptized those who wanted to become followers of Jesus. They understood that being buried with Christ in baptism they would also rise to live forever with Him.

Few will care to accept that offer but those who do are free from fear.