

How to Face Life and Death with Confidence and Certainty

by R. G. Young

Most people believe we live in uncertain times. The media makes sure we feel that uncertainty every day. From Bush lied to suitcase A-bombs on 24, the doom of Social Security to latest food called "*a heart attack on a plate*", it is hard to separate fact from alarmism and hyperbole. The result is many people live with the anxiety of which shoe is going to drop next. We try to avoid uncertainty by focusing on work, family, finances and fun. We may drink more on the weekend or lose ourselves in our hobbies or sports. Anything but face real uncertainty until it stares us in the face. Like airplanes flying into buildings and anthrax in the mail. Like finding you or a family member are dying with cancer or losing your life savings in the market or a bankrupt pension fund.

Someone has said, "*No one can live with any certainty in life until they are certain about their destiny at the end of their life.*" What used to be right is now considered wrong and what used to be wrong is now right or at least is to be tolerated. Many go through life without ever being sure as to how to live or face death with confidence and certainty. But when death has to be faced suddenly we realize we need God's help. When life is so painful and out of our control we cry to God for help. Many have not made time for God or spiritual matters and feel it would be hypocritical in the face of trouble or death to seek Him. Others may have had only a casual dabbling in spiritual matters and are now confused about death and life after death. Some have been very religious but have been told they can never be certain and confident in the face of death.

No matter which of these situations you find yourself in, there is a way to know for certain that your eternal destiny is assured in heaven with God. God is not so unloving and hard hearted as to keep people from being certain of eternal forgiveness and salvation, who realize their neglect of seeking Him. God is not so unmerciful not to make clear to the confused His way to forgiveness of sin and eternal peace. Neither is He so cruel as to let the very religious pass into eternal judgment because of their uncertainty without first showing them the sure way of forgiveness, if they will seek it and accept it by faith.

What is the way to know for certain your standing with God? In God's Word in the book of *First John* chapter 5 verse 13 we find the following:

These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

God tells us the way to be certain. The first thing is to realize that it is in **the Word of God, the Bible, we find certainty and confidence in the face of death:**

Secondly, **it is belief**, or more accurately in our vocabulary today, trust in the Person of the Son of God. Not religion. Not works. Not churches. Not prayers. But trust in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for us, not what we do for Him. God tells us concerning Jesus Christ in the book of *John* chapter 3 verses 16 through 18:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever trusts in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the World to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that trusts in Him is not condemned, but he that refuses to trust is condemned already because he has not trusted in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Uncertainty is God's merciful prodding to those who need to seek Christ for personal salvation. It is an unnatural state that no one can have peace of mind in. It is God's motivator to get us to seek the truth about salvation and forgiveness. That uncertainty can be removed by taking God at His word in the Bible. God calls this faith or trust.

Of what does this trust or faith consist? In the things written we find the answer. In the book of *Acts* chapter 3 and verse 19 we find Peter the Apostle saying:

Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out,...

Repent means to change one's mind. The change of mind spoken of here concerns our sins. God requires all to repent of sin. This means we are to honestly agree with God that our sins are wrong and that we are sorry for doing them and want to do them no more. **Converted means to turn about.** We are to turn to Jesus Christ and trust Him completely to forgive us our sins. We are to ask or call upon Him in prayer to save us from judgment for our sin. We are to believe Jesus Christ died in our place on the cross and took the judgment for our sins upon Himself and that he rose from the dead the third day as proof he was the Son of God and is able to forgive and save.

In God's Word the book of *Romans* chapter 10 verses 9, 10 and 13 God says:

That if you will confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord (God) and trust in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart man believes to become righteous; and with the mouth confession is made to be saved.... For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord (Jesus) shall be saved.

The promise of God is given so we may have a certainty and confidence that we have eternal life after death, if we follow His simple plan. We can know we have eternal life, if we will call upon Him today. There is no need to be fearful and uncertain when facing death or life's uncertainty.

For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved.

As you face death, will you remove your doubt and fear by confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for your sin? Will you ask His forgiveness for sinning against Him and trust from your heart that He rose from the dead to save you from the consequences of your sins and forgive them? Will you call upon Christ today so you may know you are saved for all eternity? If you will, He will save you by His mercy and give you His assurance and peace concerning your life now and forever.

May God grant you His Confidence, Comfort and Eternal Salvation as you face life and the reality of death.