



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“The fear of dying only robs you of joyful living.”

Fear of Dying

“Knoebels Amusement Resort is a family-owned and operated amusement park, in Elysburg, Pa. It is and has been America's largest free-admission park for over 92 years of operation. Opened in 1926, the park has more than 60 rides. The park and its rides have won awards from many organizations. In 2014, Travel Channel rated Knoebels one of their Top 10 Family Friendly Amusement Parks in the US.”¹

We recently took our granddaughters there. We rode the log flume, antique cars, bumper cars, scenic skyride, tea cups, train ride, carousel, motor boats, and whipper. We then got to the 110-foot tall Ferris wheel. The girls and I got in and sat down. The seating was not the standard bench with a bar against your lap. It was an open round car with half-moon benches around a center wheel. There were no seat belts nor bar to keep you secure. The ride started and the girls figured out that they could turn the car by spinning the wheel. Then the car started to rock back and forward. Looking out the car at the highest point, I realized that the small chain on the car entrance was not going to keep us in. I started thinking, “We are going to fall out and die.” I started praying and asking the girls to sit down and stop moving the car. We all became scared because the ride had stopped with us at the very top and it was really rocking. One of the girls looked over the edge to see why we were stopped. She saw that they were helping a disabled person on to the ride. We finally started going again but we kept yelling “We want off.” I was totally afraid of dying that day.

It is a fact that every one of us will die. We do not know when or how. We may be able to prolong its coming but we cannot avoid our appointed time. We can prepare our loved ones with life insurance and wills. We can preplan our burial and service. But, most of us are afraid because we have no knowledge of life after death.

“The statement “There are no atheists in foxholes” is an aphorism used to argue that in times of extreme stress or fear, such as during war (in foxholes), all people will believe in, or hope for, a higher power.”² The one subject an atheist cannot and will not argue with you is life after death. They have no answers or hope.

“The fear of dying is so common that it has spurred multiple research projects and intrigued everyone from scholars to religious leaders. There is even a field of study called thanatology which examines the human reaction to death and dying. According to the 2017 “Survey of American Fears” conducted by Chapman University, 20.3 percent of Americans are “afraid” or “very afraid” of dying. It is possible to break down this fear of death into several specific types of fears: Fear of Pain and Suffering, Fear of the Unknown, Fear of Non-Existence, Fear of Eternal Punishment, Fear of Loss of Control, and Fear of What Will Become of Our Loved Ones.”³

“Though he were dead, yet shall he live.” John 11:25 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” 2 Cor 5:8 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom 6:23 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Tim 1:7 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Ps 23:4,6 “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Cor 15:55



Charles L Stambaugh June 2019B

Death is not a period but a comma.

It is not the end but a new beginning.

For a believer death is only short good-bye.



¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knoebels_Amusement_Resort

² en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There_are_no_atheists_in_foxholes

³ www.verywellmind.com/scared-to-death-of-death-1132501

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