

Dead Men Walking



[AUDIO VERSION](#)

I greet you in the powerful Name above every other name; The Name of Jesus, who gave His life for us.

This morning, as you can see from the title, I want to share about quite an interesting topic. Last week I heard the phrase from the Lord: 'dead men walking'. No, He's not talking about zombies. He's not talking about people returning from the grave. He's not talking about anything that popular culture is fixated on at present. Rather, He's giving

us an instruction as to what our stance must be as we walk into what is coming. So, what does He mean? We find that this concept in many places in Scripture - this reference to being dead while still being alive. Galatians 2:20 quotes Paul as saying, *'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me ...'* and in the Passion Translation, it says it like this: *'My old identity has been co-crucified with Messiah and no longer lives, for the nails of His cross crucified me with him. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives His life through me. We live in union as one. My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God, who loves me so much that He gave Himself for me, and He dispenses His life into mine.'* What a beautiful way of putting it.

In Colossians 3:3, Paul says, *'I have died, and my life is hidden with Christ in God'*. Where is your life? It's hidden in God. Psalm 90:1 says, *'O God, You have been our dwelling place and our refuge for all generations'*. It's Moses speaking way back when in the wilderness... and that phrase is still true today. No matter where in the history of this planet you find yourself, God is your dwelling place and your refuge. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. We are facing difficult days ahead, days that will make grown men weep. How will we stand firm and unshaken and endure what is coming? Only by dwelling in God who is our Refuge. And you can only do this by grasping in the depths of your being the truth that YOU HAVE DIED. The person that you were when you came to salvation has died.

What does this mean practically? We can only possess this powerful spiritual position of being dead men walking if we have died to our personal ambitions, died to our preferences, died to the appetites of our flesh, died to our past, died to our reputation with men, died to the desire for the praises and approval of men - even died to our fears! If Galatians 2:20 is made flesh in us, then the insults of men, the false accusations, the unjust treatments, the persecution will elicit no hurt emotions, no rise to defend our good standing, no desire for vengeance. - and no urge to step back or retreat or change allegiance in order to make our lives more comfortable. You know, the early church had a firm grasp on a truth that the fleshly, modern church has no understanding of. IT IS AN HONOR TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST. Jesus said, *'If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you...'* And more than that, we will enter a time when anyone who kills us will think that they have done a service for God. This time is now here, Beloved, and this is why God counsels us that we must be dead men walking, not

dead men standing, but walking, going forward, making progress, continuing to put one foot in front of the other in obedience to what the Lord is showing us to do, knowing with an unshakable faith that we are dead and our lives are hidden with Christ in God.

Paul says in Romans 14:8, *'Whether we live, we live for the Lord, whether we die, we die to the Lord'*, and we find him in Acts 20 on a journey where he knows vaguely what is ahead. I'm going to read that for you from verse 22, reading in the Amplified Version:

'And now you see, I am going to Jerusalem, bound by the Spirit, and obligated and compelled by my own spirit, not knowing what will befall me there, except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after city, that imprisonment and suffering await me. But none of these things move me. Neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from the Lord Jesus faithfully to attest to the good news of God's grace'.

So he says *'none of these things move me'*. The thought of suffering and imprisonment doesn't move him. What does he mean? His emotions are not affected in such a way that they will interfere with his obedience to God. He has been given a path to walk and a destination, and he continues on, in spite of knowing that nothing pleasant awaits him. Verse 22 says he is bound by the Holy Spirit. That means he's a bondsman of the Lord. And he's also compelled by his own spirit. So, there's a unity between his own spirit and the Spirit of God. Full alignment, no disagreement, complete union. He's bound to the will of God, and he's not being carried passively forward, but his own spirit is EAGERLY participating in the will of God. His own spirit is compelling him, urging him forward, motivating him even while not knowing in detail what is ahead, but the Spirit has said it can be described in one word, and that is 'SUFFERING'.

Then in verse 24 he says, *'neither do I esteem my life dear to me'*. In other words, he has no desire for self-preservation. But what is his desire? That he may finish his course and the ministry he obtained from the Lord Jesus. In other words, in the beginning, when he was saved, he received a charge, a blueprint of what God was calling him to do, and all that he was focused on was completing that assignment, no matter what cost to himself, whether he lived or died, did not matter whether he suffered or not, did not matter to him. All he wanted was for his life to bring glory to God. To hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant". Paul was a dead man walking. He knew his

course and he wanted to be found faithful and NOTHING ELSE mattered. There is a clarity, Beloved, that comes with being a dead man walking. The flesh cannot rise up and trip you up. Your worldly desires have no power to move you off course. You live for Christ and to die is gain. Christ lives in you and moves through you, and your mind is bound as one with the mind of Christ.

In verse 27, he also says, *'I never shrank or kept back or fell short from declaring to you the whole purpose and plan and counsel of God'*. In other words, there was no fear of man in him. He didn't water down what he wanted to say or what the Spirit was urging him to say because of the reaction he might get from the people he was speaking to. He lived his life for an audience of One. His focus was on the pleasure and approval of God and completing his course, and he knew he was on his last journey. He told the people he was speaking to in Acts 20 that they would never see his face again, and they wept and hugged him and kissed him. Verse 37 tells us, fervently and repeatedly! He was precious to them, and they were distressed and sorrowful that they would never see his face any more, but they accompanied him to the ship, because they too were living for the glory of God alone.

Then in acts 21, he comes to the house of Philip the Evangelist, and while he was there, a prophet named Agabus came down especially from Judea to see Paul. And he prophesied over him that his hands would be bound, and he would be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles or the heathen. When the people heard this prophecy, they pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem. And this is what Paul said in verse 13: *'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart like this? For I hold myself in readiness not only to be arrested and bound and imprisoned at Jerusalem, but also to die for the name of the Lord Jesus.'* Wow. So, when the Holy Spirit told him that imprisonment and suffering were ahead of him, he prepared his heart to endure those things. His heart was ready for all these things to happen, to be arrested, to be bound, and even to die for the name of the Lord Jesus. He carried the name of the Lord, and he was not prepared to cast it off in order to save his life. Paul was a dead man walking.

In 1 Peter 4:1&2, it says, *'Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought and purpose, (and in the Amplified it says) patiently to suffer rather than to fail to please God'*. So, this thought and purpose is a weapon. It says, *'ARM yourselves'*. When you conform your thoughts and determine and decide that you will

patiently suffer rather than to fail to please God, it is a weapon, because your peace cannot be robbed from you, no matter what you experience. Let's read 1 Peter 4 from verse 12. It says, *'Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality as though something strange was befalling you. But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph. If you are censured and suffer abuse for the name of Christ, blessed are you because the spirit of glory is resting on you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified'*. When you are put into a place of suffering for the name of Christ, God is glorified, and so you can rejoice when you share Christ's sufferings.

In the book of 2 Timothy, Paul is writing to his spiritual son, and he's sharing wisdom with him as he instructs him what he must do for the kingdom. In 2 Timothy 2:3, he says, *'take with me your share of the hardships and suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No soldier, when in service, gets entangled in the enterprises of civilian life. His aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him'*. So even when Timothy is young, Paul is counselling him that part of belonging to the Lord is suffering for Him. Understand it's part of the package. That's why God is calling us to be 'dead men walking'. And of course, we know that very famous passage in Philippians 3, where Paul speaks about the passion of his heart. In verse 8, he says, *'I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ'*. Everything that comprised Paul's former life he has lost. He has lost his good standing in the community. He has lost his position in the religious system. He has lost most of his friends. He has lost all things, and he counts those things he has lost as dung - worth nothing, for the supreme prize of winning Christ. And then he says in verse 10, *'that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have already attained it, or am already made perfect, But (let's read this in the Amplified), I press on to lay hold of and make my own that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me and made me His own. Forgetting what lies behind...'* All the honours, all the valleys, all the mountaintops, forgetting it all *'and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal'*. There you see Paul's own spirit co-operating with the Holy Spirit. And then he says in verse 15, *'So let those of us who are spiritually mature have this mind and hold these convictions'*. Becoming a dead man

walking is a position of spiritual maturity. It is spiritual infancy to still be governed by the dictates of your flesh. As Paul finishes off his letter to his beloved spiritual son, Timothy, he says in chapter 4 of 2 Timothy, verse 6, *'I am already about to be sacrificed. The time of my release from the body is at hand, and I will soon go free. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith and what remains henceforth there is laid up for me the victor's crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that great day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for his appearing'*. What beautiful words! So, Paul has come to the place where he knows he soon about to die. He's already imprisoned when he writes the books of Timothy, and he's handing the baton on to his spiritual son, but he's saying, "I've run my leg of the relay race. I've fought the fight. I've kept the faith". This is what a dead man walking is able to say at the end of his life.

So how do we accomplish this state of being a dead man walking? Jesus gives us good counsel in Matthew 10:38. He says, *'He who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me'*. Now, a person who takes up their cross is on their way to be crucified. That's their last journey. In Matthew 16, it also tells us the same thing. He mentioned it more than once because He knew it was really important.

Verse 24 *'Then Jesus said to His disciples, if anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever is bent on saving his life will lose it. Whoever loses his life. (In brackets in the Amplified; 'his comfort and security here'), for My sake, shall find it.'* Now that word 'lose' is G622. It means 'to destroy fully, to die or to perish'. So even here in Matthew 16, God is telling his disciples, you've got to become a dead man walking. You've got to lose your life. Don't keep trying to save and keep your comfort and security. Lose it. Destroy fully. Become a dead man walking. And then He says, "take up your cross". That word 'take up' also means in the Greek, 'to sail away, to weigh anchor'. So, what is the word 'deny' mean in the Greek? Besides 'deny' it means 'to disown or to abstain'. In other words, who you are, your whole identity, your whole persona, you disown it, you abstain from it. It doesn't matter what Christine wants. She is dead and her life is hidden with Christ in God. And the life you now live, you live with the life of Christ coming forth out of you. What is Jesus saying? Become a dead man walking if you want to be My disciple. Become a dead man walking. I am not my own, I was bought with a price.

Now the Lord taught me a really important spiritual lesson concerning this whole topic the day before yesterday. One of my precious subscribers bought me a gift online (actually in Israel) and had it couriered to me. The gift was paid for, but in order for me to receive it, I have to pay import duty and taxes. The gift is sitting at customs and they will not release it unless I pay the import duty. It is going to cost me if I want to receive what has been gifted to me. Now isn't that interesting? Salvation is a free gift. But when we get saved, there is an inheritance stored up beyond the reach of change and decay for us. Beloved. That price that that subscriber paid for that gift, in the Strong's Concordance, it is the word 'aloe-wood', and if you listened to my message on the essential oils and the body of Jesus being wrapped in myrrh and aloes, I explained to you there, the aloe-wood oil is the most expensive perfume oil in the world. And it is the anointing of the end time remnant. It is the anointing of the two witnesses. The word 'witness' in Greek is 'marturia' and it means 'martyr'. In other words, THE TWO WITNESS COMPANIES ARE DEAD MEN WALKING. They are preaching, they are leading others to repentance, they are rebuking. They are bringing down judgments as they preach in the city called Sodom and Egypt, but they are dead to self. It's going to cost you to be part of the two witness companies, the sons of Oil. The anointing has already been fully paid for, but for you to receive it and experience all its benefits and power, there is a price you have to pay. You have to become a dead man walking. You have to count all that was formerly gained to you as loss for the priceless privilege of knowing Christ and fellowshiping in His sufferings and being conformed to His death.

Do you remember on the cross Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing". He's been wounded. He's been mocked. He's been insulted. He's been put through an incredible amount of pain, and yet He says, "Father, forgive them". When I shared about the agarwood or the aloe-wood, I said it is the fragrant resin formed by the heartwood of the aquilaria tree because of constant wounding and assault by a fungus. Aloe-wood is the fragrance of Christ and only as we take up our cross daily, and launch forth from that place of death to self and living for His glory, do we receive this incredible end-time gift that has been paid for in full. Remember, to 'take up' means 'to sail away from the harbor, to weigh anchor'. So, every day as you start your day, you have to deny yourself, disown yourself, and take up your cross. Realize that you are appointed the sufferings of Christ. Realize that you might be required to give your life for His Name, and sail away from that harbor at the beginning of every day with that cross, knowing that it is an HONOR to suffer for Christ - and you will find that

no matter what assails you during the day that you are walking through, the fragrance of Christ is released from your life, and it ministers to those around you, even to your persecutors, if that's what you're dealing with.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul is describing the apostles and what they're going through. You know, they were struck down, but not destroyed. They were in pressure and affliction and hardship, but in verse 10, he says, *'always bearing about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus (It's a process) that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our body'*. You know, only if you carry about the dying of the Lord Jesus, will that life be made manifest in your body. In verse 11, he says, *'for we who live are ALWAYS delivered unto death for Jesus' sake. So, death works in us, but life works in you'*. It is speaking of taking up a cross daily, of being DEAD MEN WALKING. Why do we do it? In order to release the life and power of God to others!

If I don't pay that import duty, that gift will not be moved from one territory to another. It will not be released from the customs offices. It has my name and address on it. It has been fully paid for. It is rightfully mine, but I will never benefit from it or experience its contents without a cost to myself. Yes, salvation is a free gift, but it provides you with an inheritance stored up until the appointed time of release. That inheritance will never be moved from the territory of heaven to you and your address, unless you pay the required price - and that price is to take up your cross and become a dead man walking. Jesus said, "I delight to do Your will". He did not delight in doing what He wanted to do. He was a bondsman to the Father. He didn't express His own opinions or ideas. He said what He heard the Father saying, and He did what He saw Him doing. Jesus was a dead man walking, and for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.

So, we need to ask the Lord, "what are the things in my life that are keeping my flesh alive? What is preventing me from accessing the fullness of my inheritance in Christ? What is it in me that resists taking up my cross daily?" And of course, it's usually to do with the flesh or with soul ties... or with involvement in the things of the world, and we should be involved in the things of the Kingdom. We are counselled in the word to put to death the deeds of the flesh. If you feed the flesh, it grows stronger. If you deny the flesh and sow to the Spirit, you reap life. Beloved, the giant of the flesh straddles the path in front of you at this time, trying to prevent you from fully experiencing what has been stored up in heaven for you. Will you become a dead man walking? **This is the**

thing the enemy fears most - because you can't tempt a dead man. You can't lure a dead man with offers of reward. After Jesus had been baptized and the Spirit had descended and remained upon Him, he was led into the desert for 40 days and He fasted. Now, the devil did not tempt him the whole 40 days. Jesus was communing with God those 40 days. But it says, at the end of those 40 days, he was hungry... and then Satan come. When there is a hunger of the flesh, the enemy is there to tempt you and try and make you stumble. Jesus was not moved by the hunger of His own flesh. He was not moved by temptation or bribes, and as a result, He came out of the desert in the power of the Spirit. That whole time, that 40 days in the desert and the testing of him at the end of those 40 days was in order to ascertain that He was a dead man walking, and then He could be released to do what God had called Him to do for those three and a half years.

You want to come out in the power of the spirit? You want to walk in the fullness of your inheritance. The price to be paid is 'become a dead man walking'. Do not count your own life dear to you. Forget what lies behind. The Holy Spirit is with us at this time of final preparations to help us disentangle ourselves from the octopus tentacles of the flesh; those things that in each of our lives it might be different. There might be something that you really are particularly vulnerable in a certain area. There might be something that has a real hold on you. There's nothing like fasting for breaking the hold of the flesh. When you sow to the Spirit, you reap life. When you sow to the flesh, you reap corruption. That's why it says *'put to death the deeds of the flesh'*. So precious, precious called out ones; the ecclesia of God, the Spirit of the Lord counsels you, it's time to truly become dead men walking, so that you can finish your course with joy and be able to say, "I have run the race. I have fought the fight. I have kept the faith".
Hallelujah.