

Can A Person Die Before His/Her Time?

Over the years this question has caused much confusion. Partly because men have believed that the death of an individual could not take place unless God was the instrument of the cause. Some think that an individual has a time to die that God has predetermined and there is nothing that can be done about it. We have all heard it said, "it was his or her time to go." We have also heard it said that he or she has died before his or her time. What light does the scripture give on this subject?

Psalm 90:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, ...

A person can die before his or her time and the following scriptures support this. We can die before our time for these reasons.

SHORTENING OF LIFE

1. Because Of Our Wickedness.

*Prov 10:27 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the **wicked** will be shortened. (NKJ) and Eccl 7:17*

A person that continues in wickedness exposes himself to things and situations that will cause them to die before their time.

2. Because Of Our Foolishness.

*Eccl 7:17 17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou **foolish**: why shouldst thou die before thy time? (KJV)*

A person acting foolishly is a high risk to die before their time. Driving recklessly, doing stupid dangerous things and tempting death in other ways will take you out of here quick.

3. Because Man Is Disrespectful to The Sacred Things of God.

1 Cor 11:29-30 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. (KJV)

The above passage points out the fact that God put many of the Christians to sleep (death). They were taking the Lord's Supper in a manner that was not deserving of Him and He brought judgement on them. They also didn't make the necessary distinctions, separation, or discrimination as to what they were doing from other things.

4. Man Wants to Ignore Gods Ways, Commands or Laws.

Lev 10:1-2 1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. (KJV)

Here is a case of a priest not doing what God required, the way God required it. We cannot treat God as any common thing.

5. Man's Outright Disrespect for God and The Church.

Acts 5:4-5 4 ... Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

Acts 5:9-10 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."
10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.... (NKJ)

This tells the story of the open face lying done by Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, to the Holy Ghost. God will not be mocked, especially in front of other believers.

To lie and sin openly in the eye of the church body and dishonoring God and Christ will shorten your life.

Conclusion: There is no doubt that from the passage above, men and women can die before their time.

LENGTHENING OF LIFE

There is good news. God provides a way for a person to add days to their life.

1. Honoring Our Fathers and Mothers.

Deut 5:16 16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (KJV) also see <Exod 20:12> and <Eph. 6:2,3>

2. Requesting God's Intervention.

Isa 38:1-5 5 "Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. (NKJ)

3. Obedience to The Commands of God

Prov 3:1-2 1 My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart **keep my commands**; 2 For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. (NKJ)
Deuteronomy 5:33 (NKJV)

4. Fear of the Lord

Prov 10:27 27 The **fear of the LORD** prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. (NKJ)

5. A Person That Has Wisdom and Knowledge of God.

Prov 9:10-11 10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11 For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. NIV and Prov 3:13-16

6. A Child Who Listens to And Obeys His or Her Parents

Prov. 4:10 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. NIV

In Conclusion, man can shorten or lengthen his days.

Citations to Rev Frank McGhee Jr, and Pastor Fred Diggs