

me to repent of my sin and receive Jesus Christ into my life as my personal Lord and Savior. I did just that, and it gave me a **peace that I never had before.**

What if you learned that your death would probably come long before you expected it to? What will you do with Jesus Christ? Will you invite Him into your heart and life, or will you allow Him to go on knocking on your heart's door, expecting instead that your religious life and good deeds will satisfy your soul? Revelation 3:20 states, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."* I pray that you will accept the real solution that brings peace to your soul. Romans 10:13 says that *"whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Death could come when you least expect it. Christ could also come at any moment; will you be prepared?

Medically I am not given much time to live, but I have been alive spiritually ever since that day Christ came into my life. I am ready to enter Heaven's door whenever my Lord calls for me. How about you? I pray that you will accept this offer and that you will join me in Heaven one day.

For those of us who are saved, the Holy Spirit, Who comes to indwell us, is called the Comforter (John 14:26). He gives us the comfort we need to get through a trial, such as the death of a loved one. Without a loving heavenly Father and a supportive wife, I couldn't endure one day of this ongoing struggle, but God has been faithful and has helped me through every day of pain and inward sorrow. The key to all the victory is Jesus Christ. **I beg you again to consider Him, Whom to know is life everlasting. Then you will have peace with death.**

— Dennis Potts

(At peace in death, August 28, 2016)

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(cover photo: sunrise in the Philippines)

Peace WITH DEATH?

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.*

John 14:27

In 1985 I faced the greatest challenge of my young pastoral life. My dad was dying of cancer. I came back from the Philippines, where I was a missionary, and was with him during the last two weeks of his life while he was on hospice care. After his passing, I knew that I should be responsible to conduct his funeral. Although I was advised by the funeral director not to do it, I felt compelled to do so.

After that, I was committed to eventually holding the funeral service for my mom also. I knew that the day would come, and it could not be avoided. When the time came, our relatives, neighbors and friends were gathered at her funeral to pay respect to this dear woman whom we all loved and admired.

But now the reality of death is even more personal. My present medical condition was not on my script. I never would have planned this. You see, I have what they call Multiple System Atrophy, or MSA for short. It is a very brutal neurological disease that affects my cerebellum, which in turn affects my speech, balance and bladder—and perhaps more in the future. It is not a pretty prognosis; it is termed a “fatal disease,” and there is no remedy.

No one can avoid death because “*it is appointed unto men once to die*” (Hebrews

9:27). But it is possible to be prepared and to have peace with death.

I do have a solution, however, that puts my soul—and any soul—at rest. In 1968 I was studying in Munich, Germany. Before I came back home to the States, I attended a Gospel concert. At that concert a question was asked that jolted me like a bomb. The question was, “**If you died tonight, do you know, from the Word of God, that you would go to Heaven?**” I knew I was moral, I knew I obeyed Mom and Dad when I was a young lad, I knew I was a faithful churchgoer, but I didn’t have the answer to that question. I had never heard that question before. At the conclusion of the concert, I went forward to speak with the fellow who had addressed us. He gave me a small tract with many Bible verses in it.

I proceeded to my Munich apartment, where I read and reread that tract. You see, according to Romans 10:17, “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” From that tract I learned that I have a problem of sin and that God’s gift of salvation is the solution.

Everyone needs salvation because all people sin. “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). God’s Word says it is necessary to repent of our sin. “*Repent*

ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). According to the Gospel, Christ died to take the punishment for our sins. “*But God commendeth [demonstrates] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8). Christ rose from the dead to prove He could forgive sin and give us eternal life. He “*was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification*” (Romans 4:25).

I learned that if I believe that Christ died for me and I receive Him as my Savior, God will give me salvation, the gift of eternal life. “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*” (John 5:24).

At the end of the tract, there were some haunting questions. “Do you want to go to Heaven when you die? Do you want to be saved? Do you want to be born again?” I read the well-known verse from 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*” (emphasis added). By that time I was crying uncontrollably. The tract instructed