

## Thing about Death

Thinking about death should be done now and then. It seems odd or morbid. With so much to live for why ever think about the end? I get it. I'll think about that later, much later. Yet, people die all the time. Far more than we think. They say that during Roman times people lived an average of 34 years. that, if true, is horrifying. I solely wish we lived over 900 years, like in the Bible. Today we average 72 years take or give a few minutes. Most people may check out at this point. Who wants to read about death?

I know a 21-year-old boy who might die soon from cancer. He is trying not to think about death. I suspect he's trying hard not to think about life either. What if you were going to die but wanted to live? This has haunted me these last few weeks. Friends came over to console him. What would they talk about? It's not funny! They can't talk about things to come or things in the past. It's pretty useless when you're going to die. There is probably a ton of tears and hugging. How do you look someone in the eye if there dying? How does the dying look in the eyes of the living? It's two completely different worlds.

I have never been right since my mother died 5 years ago. She was living and then she got a headache. The doctor told her to rest at home that night. She died. It was right before June. Where were the summer plans? Where was the trips in the future? Gone in the flash of a night. I tossed out almost everything she owned. It meant so little to me compared to her. In the process I came home looking at my stuff. How much of it would be trash to someone else. This cancer boy is surveying his room. What will he get to keep? The hard truth is nothing.

What does God have to say? Solomon is said to be the wisest man. He said in Ecclesiastics 9:5 *"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they*

*have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.*” It’s the painful truth.” How often have you said “*it’s been that long since they died?*” How many people can you recall who lived just one hundred years ago? In reality it’s almost nobody. God says nobody is fit for heaven if they look at the past. He wants His creation to live. Why? Because in a certain amount of time you will live no more. Cease to exist to many on this earth. So, make an impression while you’re alive.

This cancer boy may only know 21 years on earth. I have known over double that. I have said over and over that he hasn’t even had a chance to ruin his life. Clearly, I’ve made so many messes in 56 years. Most of us wish for a reset. Cancer boy isn’t going to get that. Man, I could have reset at 22, 32, 42, 52. I hope upon hope that God allows this boy to find a way. A chance to make life better for the next 21 years. I hope God does that for me too. What’s my only job for the next 24 hours? Make today better than yesterday. Cancer boy hasn’t got that option, does he?

I know we don’t want to mention death. During my wife’s cancer I refused to give that word power. Yet, it existed. It tried to take her life. She fought and she won. Cancer boy is fighting. The question now is who will win? I can refuse to say the word death but it’s nothing. I can ignore the cancer word. Does fate and destiny care? Are death and cancer afraid of me? They just laugh and mock me because I have zero power over them.

How to beat cancer and death 101! Live! We have today. Hopefully we have tomorrow too. There is always a chance at surviving. Jesus said don’t worry about tomorrow. We can pray and laugh. Yes, death and cancer scare the hell out of us. So can nuclear fallout. My understanding is cancer boy is fighting to live. He has a better reason than me. But, does he. I could go as quickly as my mom did. Her next weeks plans disappeared in a night. I have a chance to fulfil mine.

This is my answer. Someone said to live a life that leaves something unfinished. They were so right. Live to breathe another day. Read books and watch movies. Hug a ton of people and don't leave misunderstanding and anger on the table. Make smiling a priority. Who knows when tears will try and take over? Why not make it hard for fear and tears to win. So many are trying to run from sadness and death by wearing masks and cowering in their homes. Life deserves more than that. Do you think cancer boy wants to cower? Nope he wants another day to smile. To live another day! Be so loving and so busy that when you pass on you don't notice. You leave something unfinished.