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CHAPTER 6

Resurrection Power

Life comes packed in a finite container. Though elegant in design, the physical body that we inhabit limits our survival. Situated in a biological organism, we exist as a breath in time. One heartbeat separates us from eternity.

Dying plays an unavoidable and predictable role in our living routine. Each day adults lose from 50 to 70 billion cells. Scientists call this phenomenon apoptosis or programmed cell death. Additional cells die from injury, stress, and disease in a process called necrosis. Each year adults generate and lose enough cells to replace their entire body weight.

Despite designer drugs, environmental enhancements, and vitamin supplements, the aging process leans decisively towards death. Hair turns grey and falls out. Wrinkles multiply, moles emerge, and memories malfunction. We endure muscle aches, joint pain, and fatigue. Our anatomy and physiology balance on a fatal tipping point; death is universal.

A Sophisticated Inner Drive Compels Us to Live Forever

Normally human beings want to live. Made in God's image, we gravitate instinctively toward life and life-sustaining activities: eating, drinking, sleeping, breathing, and moving. Most people avoid dangerous encounters and recoil from fearful opponents. Naturally we do not want to die, and we do not want loved ones to die. Our will to live opposes death's fatal pledge.

Death generates excruciating sorrow because separation from those we love hurts. It remains painful because God never intended for anyone to die. He designed Adam and Eve to experience life everlasting—spirit, soul, and body. Grief punctuates the infamous breakdown in God's original plan. It overstates the obvious—that eternity occupies our mind, will, and emotions. The loss of those whom we love evokes deep emotional pain—a pain for which we are not equipped to

handle. These strong feelings SHOUT a critical message; one that God wants everyone to hear and remember.

- Feelings of grief amplify our eternal nature (whether we are connected with or disconnected from God)
- They highlight the fact that life was not supposed to end this way
- Sadness, regret, denial, isolation, anger, helplessness, and depression emphasize how desperately we need to connect with our Savior Jesus

More to Life than meets the Eye

[God] **put eternity in their hearts...** (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NKJ)

An eternal destiny burns in every soul. It extends beyond time and space with a persistent purpose. As God's masterpiece, we possess imperishable dimensions that will last forever. Our desire for immortality goes beyond gaining prominence and acquiring stuff. It commands an everlasting focus that overshadows tentative agendas.

Jesus redefined death, i.e., our ultimate weakness, at the cross. By resurrecting from the dead He delivered a knockout punch to dying and its affiliated sting. This dreaded bully met its match and lost because Jesus injected our mortal finitude with resurrection power and eternal life. For those who love Jesus, death takes on a new and exhilarating meaning.

A Paramount Choice

Biologically speaking, death starts when the heart stops. Spiritually speaking, life starts when we are born again, saved by grace, and redeemed through faith. Death means separation from God. Choosing life in Christ is the most important decision we will ever make because it has eternal consequences. Joshua clarified this choice when he said,

*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land...*** (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NIV)

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