

WHAT IS THE DEATH THAT ADAM DIED?

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

What does it mean to be spiritually dead? Can a spiritually dead person bring life to himself? And do spiritually dead people have a free will that enables them to freely choose to please God through faith?

When Paul uses the phrase, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, the Greek word he uses for dead is *nekros* and it means dead, like in dead. It can also be translated corpse. In fact, this is how the word *nekros* is used in MAR 9:26 when Jesus is about to cast a spirit out of a young man. "The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse (*nekros*) that many said, He's dead."

Now for us to be able to understand what it means to be dead in our trespasses and sins it is imperative that we go back to the beginning, when death first entered into the world. And for that the apostle Paul makes a connection to the Old Testament.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, And here Paul is referencing Genesis.

Genesis 2:16-17 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for *in the day that you eat from it you will surely die*.

But what does it mean to die? What kind of death did Adam and his wife actually experience? Was it merely a physical death to be enacted at some future time? Or was it both a future physical death, along with a present spiritual death? I think most would agree that Adam and Eve died both spiritually, and at a point in time in the future, physically. In fact, we know at what age Adam physically died.

Genesis 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

But God promised Adam that *in the day* he ate of the forbidden fruit he would surely die. And so, the question needs to be raised; did Adam and his wife die that particular day in the garden of Eden, and if they did, what kind of death was it?

This is where most would answer; they died spiritually. But that begs the question; what does it mean to die spiritually? The implied answer in today's religious environment is that spiritual death is akin to spiritual lethargy that only needs to be prodded so as to resuscitate the victim back to spiritual vibrancy as they employ a faith that embraces the truth of the gospel.

But is spiritual lethargy, or dullness, what God meant when he used the word “die” as the result of rebellion and treason? And if Adam and his wife did die the day in which they ate, how did that death affect their relationship with the Lord and their world?

Again, those who subscribe to a type of spiritual lethargy, as it relates to spiritual death, would suggest that after man’s rebellion, the broken relationship between Adam and Eve and God was merely paused between them, thus it was just a matter of time before they came to their senses and believed in God’s promise of a future Messiah and bingo, they’re back in the game. In this scenario death simply means dysfunction.

But death is not being dysfunctional or lethargic in either a physical sense or even in a spiritual sense. Death means dead. This is why God employs the image of physical death as being a good picture of what spiritual death actually is.

When God approached the prophet Ezekiel, he showed him a valley full of dead bones that represented the spiritual condition of the nation of Israel at that time. And God asked Ezekiel a number of questions including this one in Eze.37:3.

Ezekiel 37:3-5 He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.”

We’ll revisit this passage later but in light of this reality of God having to first breathe life into the spiritual deadness of a people, is it possible for someone who is spiritually dead to make himself alive any more than it is possible for a physically dead person to bring himself back to life? This issue has to be taken on squarely because it determines the extent of death and what it takes to bring those who are dead back to life, either spiritually or physically.

Lazarus is one who helps to put this issue into some perspective. Lazarus, along with his sisters, Mary and Martha, were disciples and friends of Jesus. After Lazarus died of a sickness, he was put into a tomb for four days as Jesus then came to Bethany to grieve with the family and friends; or so it would appear. When Jesus went to the grave of Lazarus, he instructed some of the people to remove the stone to the entrance where the dead Lazarus lay, and then he prayed to the Father.

John 11:41-44 Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me. When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Unbind him, and let him go.

So, here's the question. At what point did Lazarus respond to Jesus? In other words, was Lazarus made alive by Jesus before he responded and then walked out, or did Lazarus respond as a dead man to the words Jesus spoke, in essence causing himself to come to life and walk out of the tomb?

Anyone who thinks that Lazarus had the wherewithal to react as a dead man and make a conscious choice to respond to the words Jesus spoke, causing himself to come to life, just doesn't understand the nature of death. Likewise, if being spiritually dead means dead, as in the sense of not being alive, then what would that spiritual death look like and how would that death be expressed to us by God so that we could understand?

Well, we get a glimpse of spiritual death in the way that Adam and his wife respond to their Creator when he came for them after their rebellion. Was their first inclination to run to God and ask for forgiveness? What do the Scriptures say?

Genesis 3:8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Surely, some say, this was to demonstrate that they were fearful and embarrassed and felt that they must hide from God so as to avoid any consequences from their rebellion. Eventually, they would come to their senses and seek God out for forgiveness. This would presumably be the natural progression if their death, as a result of their disobedience, was mere spiritual lethargy. Therefore, in time, the fog would be lifted and they would see their need to seek God. But what actually transpired on that day?

Genesis 3:9-11 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you? He said, I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself. And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

The answer must of course be yes, I have eaten from the tree of which I was commanded not to eat. But what was the promise from God as it related to eating of the tree from which they were commanded not to eat? In that day, you will surely die. So, a little reflection on this encounter makes clear that at this point, as God has sought them out, they are now dead. The coroner in the Wizard of Oz could teach us something here on the nature of death as he addressed all the munchkins regarding the total demise of the wicked witch of the east: she's not only merely dead, she's really most sincerely dead.

Adam and Eve were not merely dead as if they suffered spiritual syncope, or spiritual swooning; they were most sincerely dead. They were not merely cut off from God's blessing of Paradise; they were now the recipients of both spiritual alienation from God as well as the recipients of His wrath and condemnation with

no ability to change this new standing with God which declared them, guilty as charged. The death of Adam and Eve can be summed up in very few words, in fact, the very words of Jesus.

John 3:20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

This is the exact scenario we find with Adam and Eve who did evil, and in hiding themselves they demonstrated a hatred for the Light and would not come to the light for fear their deeds would be exposed. As a result, the Light now exposed their dead hearts and necessitated that their evil deeds be punished with the wrath of God. When juxtaposing Christ's salvation through the sacrifice of himself for his people, with the result of Adam's sin which is death, the apostle Paul makes clear what Adam's rebellion accomplished as it is brought to bear on sinful men.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Those who are in Adam suffer the same fate as Adam; God's wrath. The wrath of God not only places man outside of a relationship with God, as we are declared His enemy, it also necessitates punishment for rebelling against a holy God. A price has to be paid for sin, and that price is death which must be paid for by man.

Ephesians 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

We are born into this world with the nature of Adam, what the apostle Paul identifies as being children of wrath, that is, Adam's offspring who inherit his punishment from God. And as we saw earlier this nature results in death for all mankind. In Adam all die, for all have sinned in Adam and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:12 through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Paul identifies all mankind as enemies of God, which is a direct result of Adam and Eve's rebellion as they were made enemies of God. As a result, they were now consigned to a spiritual condition of death in which they would not, and could not, seek God for their salvation in their present dead condition as they now hated the light. This is not an overstatement. Again, let's revisit the word of God given to the prophet Ezekiel as God gives a very clear picture of what it means to be most sincerely dead when writing to Israel, who had forsaken their God, as He compares them to a corpse whose bones are scattered on the ground.

Ezekiel 37:1-3 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was

full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, You know.

God's rhetorical question implied the only viable answer to Ezekiel; dry bones do not give themselves life. God must do a miraculous work to bring those bones back to life, as they are all most sincerely dead. And the miracle in question is found in the following verse.

Ezekiel 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.

Notice the progression. The breath of God first enters the bones and then they come to life enabling them to respond to this new life. Just as Adam's lifeless body lay on the ground on day six of creation, after the Lord formed him from the dust of the earth, God then breathed into Adam's nostrils, and he subsequently became a living being, physically and spiritually.

Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Life begins and ends with God, both physically and spiritually. Israel is depicted in dead dry bones because they are dead in their transgressions and sins with no desire or ability to seek the one true God. Why? Because they are dead. They are incapable of seeking anything truly spiritual in a God-honoring way. And because they are spiritually dead, they are completely cut off from God with no capacity to seek him unless God does something to bring life back to them, giving them eyes to see and ears to hear.

Ezekiel 37:11 Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.

Notice that God identifies an entire nation of people who are physically alive on this planet, that is Israel, and yet he speaks of them in a dead spiritual condition as he declares they are dried up bones. Notice too that he has to speak for the dry bones in this vision as he puts words in their dead mouths that attest to their deadness. These dead dry bones need God to come to them since they will not and cannot come to God for life. They are completely cut off just as Adam and Eve were completely cut off from God in their rebellion and death.

The apostle Paul would take this same truth and reveal it to the church in Rome when he puts God's salvation for his people into perspective as it relates to the spiritual deadness of all men.

Romans 3:10-12-17 as it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE

WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS; WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.

Where did Paul get this teaching that he prefaces with, as it is written? It's found in the OT.

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

Would faith in God be considered good? Absolutely. But we are told no one does good which would certainly include employing faith in God. But it was Jesus himself who would take the prophet Ezekiel's teaching on dead dry bones and shame one of Israel's premier teachers whom our Lord accuses of not understanding how only God can create new life in a spiritually dead person, as he utilizes the phrase, born again.

John 3:1-3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. Jesus answered and said to him, *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Notice that Jesus does not say, that unless one is born again, he *chooses not see* the kingdom of God. Rather, he says, *he cannot see* the kingdom of God. The word "cannot" in the Greek is *dunamai* and it means power or ability. It's where we get our English word dynamite.

Jesus is telling Nicodemus that no one has the power, or ability, to see the Kingdom of God until something from God first energizes a dead person from death to life to give them eyes to see. Jesus identifies it as being born from above, or born again. This is not a birth that anyone can cause for themselves any more than we caused our physical conception and subsequent birth into this world. Therefore, we are not born again *after* we believe, any more than Lazarus walked out of the tomb *before* he was given life by God.

That's getting the cart in front of the horse. Rather, we employ God's gift of faith, after we've been born of God from above, thus dead dry bones being made alive by God. Jesus went on to explain to Nicodemus what this birth from above

involved. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus was still unable to understand what Jesus was talking about as he previously posed the ridiculous notion of being born again in a fleshly manner.

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?

Jesus does not entertain that response as he then goes on to explain what a spiritual birth from above is.

John 3:8-10 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to Him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said to him, Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

What things is Jesus addressing that a teacher of Israel should have understood in studying his OT Scriptures? This is where Ezekiel's vision should have rung a bell for Nicodemus, which is what Jesus is referencing. Remember what Jesus said. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Take note of what God told Ezekiel in the context of dead dry bones needing a miracle to come to life.

Ezekiel 36:25-28 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Where in this equation is man's involvement that activates his salvation from death to life? Well, of course it's in man enacting his faith in those promises, is the response from many. But if you are dead, how can you believe? Or, in light of Lazarus' death, how did he respond to Jesus's call, unless he was first made alive, giving Lazarus the ability to then respond?

God is telling Ezekiel that unless a person is born from above through God's cleansing, as the Spirit of God makes him alive by giving him a new heart that was previously dead, he cannot believe. And he will not cease to serve everything outside of the one true God, thus his idols, as God identifies what his filth is. This is the exact language Paul uses when defining how it is that anyone is born again or saved.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

This is in line with what we're told in John's gospel when John identifies those who believe with a work that no man has the ability to accomplish on his own.

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Those who believe are those who are first born of God as he causes dead dry bones to come to life before they can stand and walk in response to that life that God imparts, thus resulting in the gift of faith being employed as we are enabled by the Spirit to believe in Christ. But let's revisit the day Adam and his wife died. The serpent had just deceived the woman into thinking that she could be like God, knowing good and evil, if she would just eat of the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:6-7 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Keep in mind what God told them, prior to their rebellion, that in the day they ate of the fruit he had commanded them not to eat, they would surely die. Therefore, we would have to make the connection that once they ate, they had in fact, died, according to God's own words.

But notice that their death resulted in two things happening to them. The first is that their eyes were opened. The second is that in their new condition, which is now death, their ability to see resulted in them realizing that they were naked.

This ability to see their nakedness helps to define their death. In other words, their new line of sight focuses on themselves instead of on God. In focusing on themselves, (their flesh) their ability and desires have also changed. Instead of seeking for God's solution to their nakedness (which demonstrates their death and condemnation) they create what they believe to be the solution in covering their own nakedness.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

So, the question is, what did their attempt at covering their nakedness accomplish? It gave them an immediate sense of satisfaction that they had solved at least one problem; covering their nakedness. But what was the reality of their solution before a holy God?

Genesis 3:8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Their best attempt at trying to cover their guilt and condemnation before God led them to flee from God, not to fly to God. Though their eyes had been opened they could not see their real solution by falling on the grace and mercy of God, and therefore they had to create their own solution. The day Adam and his wife died was the day they abandoned God, no longer able nor willing to seek for God. Their new sight had made them blind, as well as unable to hear. What did Moses say to rebellious Israel?

Deuteronomy 29:4 Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.

Romans 11:7-8 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written, **GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.**

It was not until God gave Adam and his wife His covering that we see the reestablishment of a new covenantal relationship to their Creator.

Genesis 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

According to God's prescription in covering their nakedness, (representing their guilt before a holy God) He made garments of skin that required the death of an animal that in turn brings them safely into the presence of a holy and righteous God. This animal skin covering would be the eschatological covering found in the promised seed of the woman. This is the same covering the prophet Zechariah addresses as he is given a vision of Joshua the high priest standing before the Lord, who removed Joshua's filth and replaced it with God's festal robes.

Zechariah 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, Remove the filthy garments from him. Again he said to him, See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.

The holy festal robes are ultimately found in the covering that we have in the seed of the woman, Jesus Christ, whom God clothes us with.

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

God Himself baptizes (identifies) His people with His Son's righteousness resulting in our sins being covered as only God can cover them as he blesses us with the gift of faith at which point, we put on Christ by accepting his sacrifice on our behalf with the faith that God gives us.

Romans 4:7-8 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

The identical deadness that we inherit in Adam is a deadness that will not and cannot seek the things of God. Jesus points this out to the Jews of his day who had eyes and ears but could not see or hear the things pertaining to salvation found in the Messiah, promised to Adam and his wife.

John 8:42-45 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. *Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.* You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. *But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

Being in Adam is being identified with Adam's new father, immediately after his rebellion. His treasonous actions against God resulted in him exchanging father's. This is what Jesus meant when he associated a group of Jews with Satan, even though they were physically born into a nation that had been chosen by God.

Though these Jews were blessed with the name Israel, they were not truly Israelites whom the Father had called out to follow Him. Instead, they were still dead in their transgressions and sins (dead dry bones) without the ability to seek God, precisely because they belonged to their father the devil. In other words, the lie that was perpetrated in the garden, promising Adam and Eve that their eyes would be opened, was still in effect in the lives of these people as they were unable to see the very Messiah who literally stood in front of them.

It is not as though they were simply unwilling to come to the Messiah, who consistently demonstrated that he was sent from the Father with miracles and signs and wonders; they could not come because they could not understand spiritual things. Why? The apostle Paul explains it.

Romans 8:5-6 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, For the mind set on the flesh is death.

The deadness Paul identifies is the same deadness that was conferred upon Adam and his wife the moment they rebelled, with the intent to make themselves wise in knowing good and evil, becoming like God. It cannot be overstated, Adam and his wife did not become only merely dead, they were most sincerely dead. And because they will not and cannot seek God in their new dead condition, God must seek them out and give them a new life in His Spirit.

Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you?

It will be from this point that God officially declares their deadness as he condemns them to their fate in a world that is now cursed because of their sin.

Genesis 3:17-19 Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.

The spiritual death of being cut off from God was now confirmed and the subsequent physical death of returning to the dust of the ground, from which they were made, was now also firmly in place. Notice that God identifies their existence at that moment as dust, a lifeless material which points to the imagery of dead dry bones that defined the spiritual condition of Israel where God's breath was needed to give them spiritual life.

But we know this was not the end of the story because Adam and Eve turned from their sin and embraced the promise of God by faith that He would send a Messiah through the seed of the woman. Or did they? Nowhere in the Genesis 3 account does it explicitly tell us that Adam and his wife repented of their sin and embraced the good news of a Messiah. Here's what we read:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He [the seed of the woman, the Messiah] shall bruise you [seed of the serpent] on the head, And you shall bruise him [Messiah] on the heel.

This is God's announcement of defeating death and sin that Adam brought into their world. And then God goes on to pronounce the punishment for Adam and his wife's rebellion, which includes a curse on all of creation, along with the consequence of their death sentence that involves returning to the dust of the earth.

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.

So, where is the response of faith on the part of Adam and Eve? It's actually found in the next verse.

Genesis 3:20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.

How does this translate into Adam and his wife's faith in the promise given by God? For this we could turn to the epistle of James.

James 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

We're not told that Adam believed God, but we are clearly told that Adam welcomed God's promise of new life found in a future Messiah, revealed through the seed of the woman. His action to rename his wife demonstrates a real faith that looked forward to the life found in the seed of the woman. Up to this point in the Genesis narrative Adam's wife is simply referred to as woman or wife. The new name that Adam gives her is Eve, which means life. It's the Hebrew word *chavvah*, which is similar to the Hebrew word *chayyim*, which also means life.

Both Adam and Eve's faith in this promise from God is also seen in the expectation of the fulfillment of God's promise found in the seed of Eve's firstborn.

Genesis 4:1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*"

But how did Adam and Eve go from being dead in their transgressions and sins, where their only desire was to run from God, to now being able to trust God who gives them a hope out from under their death, as they subsequently embrace that promise by faith?

As we move through our study in Ephesians, we will see how the bad news of our death sentence in Adam, can turn into the good news of hope where spiritually dead people are brought back to life, no longer under the power of the evil one where our only desire was to walk in the deadness of our sins, what Paul references as [walking] according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

This is where we will pick up next time. When we begin to understand the depths of sin from which we were delivered of by God, we can only be humbled that God chose to give us life in His Son, the same life he graciously promised to Adam and Eve after their rebellion.

1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.