

LUKE Lesson 66

Jesus Christ Laid Down His Own Life Upon the Cross (Luke 23:46)

27 September 2019

1. **“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”** (Luke 23:46).
 - a. God is a triune or tripartite (three-part) being (Matt 28:19); three persons, one God (1 Jn 5:7).
 - b. Man was created in the image of God (Gen 1:27); three parts, but one man (Gen 2:7, 1 Thess 5:23).
 - i. Your body is dust, clay (Job 10:9), flesh (Job 19:26), corruptible, mortal (1 Cor 15:53). It will return to the dust of the ground (Gen 3:19). Your body is temporal, not eternal.
 - ii. Your spirit enables you to communicate with other men (1 Cor 2:11) and will return to God who gave it (Eccl 12:7). Your spirit is temporal, for use on the earth.
 - iii. Your soul is the real you (Job 10:1, Ps 3:2, 1 Cor 15:45). It is not temporal, but is eternal (Jn 3:15, 6:51, 14:16, Rom 6:23), and will spend eternity in Hell (Mk 8:36, Mt 25:41) or with Christ (Col 3:4, Php 1:23).
 - c. When Jesus Christ came into this world in the incarnation, He had a human body, a spirit that enabled communication with man, and an eternal soul.
 - i. At death, man’s spirit returns to God (Eccl 12:7), the body is buried (Mt 14:12), and the soul departs the body and goes to Heaven or Hell (Gen 35:18).
 - ii. At death, Christ’s soul went to Hell (Ps 16:10, Acts 2:27) and then to Heaven (Jn 20:17), His body was buried, then resurrected (1 Cor 15:4), His Spirit returned to God.
 - d. **See Ecclesiastes 8:6-8.** Ordinary man has no power over his own spirit: to keep it or to dismiss it. There is no discharge in the war against death; all men die (Heb 9:27), but you don’t decide when that day will be; God decides (Deut 32:39).
 - e. **Jesus had power to dismiss His own Spirit!** He didn’t just ask God to receive His Spirit like Stephen did (Acts 7:59).
 - i. As God manifest in the flesh, Jesus Christ had power over His own life:
 1. He could keep His life (Luke 4:29-30).
 2. **John 10:17-18.** He could lay down His life for our benefit—and then take it up again.

SEVEN PROOFS THAT JESUS CHRIST VOLUNTARILY LAID DOWN HIS LIFE:

1. He was not powerless when the soldiers came to arrest Him (John 18:6). He voluntarily surrendered.
2. He cried with a loud voice on the cross (Mt 27:46, 50, Mk 15:34 Lk 23:46). That's not possible for an ordinary man who has been tortured and crucified. Jesus Christ was strong to the finish. He didn't die as a result of the torture; He gave up the Ghost.
3. He said, "**I thirst**" (Jn 19:28) that the scripture might be fulfilled (Ps 22:15, 69:21). He was in His right mind all the way to the end.
4. He said, "**It is finished,**" bowed His head (John 19:30), and gave up the Ghost. If He was dying from the crucifixion, His head would have never been upright to begin with.
5. He instructed His Spirit to depart His body (Luke 23:46). That's not possible for ordinary man.
6. The soldiers didn't break His legs (John 19:33, Exod 12:46) because He'd already dismissed His Spirit. They expected He would linger and suffer for a long time. He could not remain on the cross overnight (Deut 21:22-23). The soldiers were amazed to find Him dead already because He showed no signs of exhaustion or collapse.
7. The entire creation protested at His death resulting in supernatural phenomena (earthquakes, rocks rending, temple veil torn, worldwide darkness). Many great men have died, but creation didn't make a peep at their funeral.

HOW WE, AS BELIEVERS, CAN FOLLOW IN THE STEPS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:

Philippians 3:7-11

We can be "**made conformable unto his death**" when we are willing to give up all our worldly possessions, ambitions, desires, etc. "**for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.**"

Will you willingly, voluntarily lay down your life and begin living a life that will benefit others? That's how you conform to His death; by making your life a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1, 8:36, Philippians 1:20-21, Second Corinthians 4:10-11).

It is through the "**fellowship of His sufferings**" that you "**may know Him and the power of His resurrection.**"

- When you fully reckon yourself dead to self, forsake the things of this world, lay down your life for others, and give up all claims to your own life (your self-will and self-interests), that's when you will enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and be able to walk in the power of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. That's when you will begin to live the abundant life (John 10:10).
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