Spiritual Death and God

What is Spiritual Death?

In Scripture when God speaks of death, He is speaking of separation. **Physical death** is the separation of the soul/spirit from the body. **Spiritual death**, which is eternal is of greater significance**;** it is the separation of the soul/spirit from God.

In Genesis 2:17, God tells Adam that in the day he eats of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobeys Him, he will *"surely die."* Adam eventually does disobey God and falls from His grace, but his physical death does not occur immediately as Adam goes on to live over the age of 900 so you see God must have another type of death in mind – spiritual death. This separation from God is exactly what we see in Genesis 3:8. When Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord, they *"hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God."* **The fellowship or intimate relationship they had with God had been broken.** They were spiritually dead and separated from the life of God, yet they were physically alive living past the age of 900 and raising a family.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He paid the price for us all by dying on our behalf. Even though He is God, He still had to suffer the agony of a temporary separation from the Father due to the sin of the world He was carrying on the cross. After three hours of supernatural darkness, He cried out, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me (Mark 15:33-34)?"* This spiritual separation from the Father was the result of Christ taking our sins upon Himself. That's the impact of sin. Sin is the exact opposite of God, and God had to turn away from His own Son at that point in time.

A man without Christ is spiritually dead. Paul describes it as *"being alienated from the life of God"* in Ephesians 4:18. To be separated from life is the same as being dead. The natural man, like Adam hiding in the garden, is isolated from God. When we are born again (born from above), the spiritual death is reversed. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes. Before salvation, we are dead (spiritually), but Jesus gives us life. *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)."* *"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins*

(Colossians 2:13)."

To illustrate this think of Jesus' raising of Lazarus in John, chapter 11. The physically dead Lazarus could do nothing for himself. He was unresponsive to all stimuli, oblivious to all life around him, beyond all help or hope – except for the help of Christ who is *"the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)."* At Christ's call, Lazarus was filled with life, and he responded accordingly. In the same way everyone of us come into this world born physically alive but spiritually dead and separated from the life of God, unable to save ourselves, powerless to perceive the life of God – until Jesus called us to Himself. He *"quickened"* us; *"not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy (Titus 3:5)."*

The book of Revelation speaks of the *"second death"*, which is a **final separation from God.** Only those who have never experienced new life in Christ (being indwelt by God's Spirit or born again from above), will partake of the "second death" – eternal separation from God (Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 14; 21:8). I'm not trying to scare you but Scripture makes it very clear to understand that on judgement day**;** *"Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of fire [or eternally separated from God] (Rev. 20:15)."*