



PREPARE to Meet Your MAKER

Are You Ready for Eternity?

Greg Fritz

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by Greg Fritz



Greg Fritz Ministries

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Introduction

Many people spend years preparing for retirement. Most spend more time preparing for retirement than they spend living in retirement. Some make plans for their death by prepaying and pre-planning their funeral long before it happens, as well as making extensive arrangements for the disbursement of funds, personal possessions, and business interests after their passing. This is considered being responsible and looking ahead. On the other hand, many of these same people don't spend one minute preparing for eternity.

You may not believe in God, and you may not think it's necessary to prepare for life after death, but what if you're wrong? What if there is a God? And, what if there is an eternal destiny awaiting you? What if the universe didn't happen accidentally, and there was a Master Designer behind the creation of the world? If there's even a chance there is a God, would you want to enter into eternity never having acknowledged Him or having thanked Him for the gift of life?

Everyone who owns a car buys car insurance—not because a wreck is inevitable but because there's always the chance of having one. Most of us pay much more in insurance premiums over our lifetime than we ever receive in claims. But, we get insurance “just in case.”

Likewise, homeowners pay insurance to cover damage or losses to their home, due to a fire or flood. Most people will never lose their home to a fire. In fact, in my home state of Oklahoma, only about 8% of people will actually have a fire that destroys part or all of their home. Most won't experience a flood either, but each year people pay out multiplied thousands of dollars in insurance premiums. Such disasters

may never happen, but we pay the money anyway because there's a chance something could happen. And no one thinks anything about that; it's just being responsible. It's good business, it's believing for the best, but preparing for the worst so that if the unthinkable happens, we're ready.

Do you want to be guilty of taking better care of your car and your house than your eternal soul? Are you making better preparations for your earthly possessions than for your eternal destiny? When you look at the evidence all around—the earth, with its seasons and beauty and the delicate balance of nature; the precision of the solar system, with the orbits of the planets and moons, which are so precise they define time; and the vastness and the wonder of outer space—what are the odds that they didn't just happen, that everything didn't come from nothing for no reason? Did all of this order ascend from chaos? Have you ever seen anything so extraordinarily beautiful and complex happen by mere chance?

The universe appears to be the result of an intelligent Creator. If this is true, you and I owe Him our very lives. If there is even a slight possibility we could experience a fire or flood, we're willing to pay insurance for decades. By the same token, if there's even the slightest possibility there's a God who created you, don't you want to be ready to meet Him? I'd like to share with you four Bible truths to prepare you for the most important moment of your life—that moment when you meet your Maker.

1. You Will Meet God

The first truth is simply this: You will meet God. There really is a God, and one day you will meet Him. They say that only two things are sure: death and taxes. Well, I want to tell you something that is more sure than death and more sure than taxes—you will meet God. Hebrews 9:27 says “...it is appointed for men to die once, and after this the judgment.” Whether you believe in God or not, whether you live a long time or a short time, whether you’re young or old when you pass away, whether you accomplish your dreams or not, whether you’re considered to be a success or a failure, rich, poor, educated, or uneducated, when you finally pass from this life to the next, you will meet God.

This will be the most important moment of your existence. Revelation 20:11-12 says, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Verse 13 says, “And they were judged, each one according to his works.” “Works” simply means that each and every person will be judged for every thought and word and deed throughout his or her lifetime. God is keeping meticulous records. This is a frightening prospect because none of us is perfect. We all have things we’d like to forget, but they won’t be forgotten on that day. Without a Savior, we are doomed to stand before God alone and give an account for the life we’ve lived on Earth. The result is Revelation 20:15—“And anyone not

found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Thank God there is another book that will be opened, which is the Book of Life. Those whose names are written in that book will not be judged by their works but will be welcomed into heaven to live with God forever.

It's your responsibility and my responsibility to make sure our names are written in the Book of Life. God doesn't choose whose names are written in that Book. It's not by chance that some are included and some are left out. Though not everyone's name is written in the Book of Life, yours can be. John 3:18 says, “he who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned, he who does not believe on Jesus is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

The only reason someone's name is not written in the Book of Life is because that person has not chosen to believe on the name of Jesus Christ. He has not accepted God's answer, or God's solution, to his sin problem. There is no other way to escape punishment for sin except through faith in Jesus. You may think this is not fair. How can we be responsible to a God we can't see? I would ask you to consider a couple of things that can't be denied.

First of all, you can't deny that you exist. You must admit that you are alive. You are a human being. If you're reading this, you're a person. You have a life that's incredible! And you didn't give it to yourself. You live in an amazing world that is able to sustain life. It was here long before you arrived. Because of the evidence all around us, we each have an obligation to search for our Creator.

Second, deep down, everyone has a desire to know where they came from. We all have a desire to know who is responsible for our

existence and to discover why we're here. Every human has a void in his or her life that only God can fill. People have a hunger for the supernatural, a hunger for a relationship with God. It is important to follow this urge to search, to reach out and attempt to learn about, and to find your Maker. Allow these things to motivate you to seek Him.

Maybe you feel that if there is a God, He's impossible to find. Maybe you think God is hidden from you, or if He does exist, you wonder if He even cares about you. God may be hidden, but He's not hidden from you. He's hidden for you. God has hidden Himself so that He can be found by those who want to know Him. He doesn't push Himself on anyone. He doesn't intrude into people's lives without an invitation, even though He has every right to do so. He's not a hard taskmaster. He is eager to reveal Himself to those who are hungry to know Him and to experience His love.

God reveals the way to Himself through His Word. Even though He can't be physically seen or felt or heard, He has left us His Word to show us the way to Him. And His Word is all the direction we need. It has worked for millions and millions of people, and it will work for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says (and this is God speaking directly to you), "...I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." That's all positive. Some people may choose not to look for God because they think if there's a God, surely He must be angry at them.

They think that God is out to get them or punish them or give them what they deserve. But the thoughts that God thinks toward you are "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Next, in verses 12 and 13, the key to finding God is revealed: "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." So you can find God; He gives us the formula right here. You just

have to search for Him by praying to Him with all your heart. You have to believe that He hears you, and you will find Him. For those of us who have experienced this, we don't just believe there's a God; we know there's a God because we've found Him.

We don't have to see Him with our eyes. We don't have to touch Him with our hands or feel Him with our emotions. We know there is a God because we have a relationship with Him on a spiritual level, spirit to spirit. But the key to finding Him is to know that He's not going to find you. You have to find Him, and you can find Him when you seek Him with all your heart. He's not hidden from you. He's hidden for you. Hebrews 11:6 says, "...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him." Once again, you see the spiritual principle of you having to believe and seek Him, go after Him.

This verse also states that He's a good God, a rewarder. He's not going to curse you. He's not going to punish you. He's not going to hurt you. He wants to reward those who diligently seek Him. It's irresponsible for us as created beings, people who have been given the gift of life, not to take time to search for our Creator. We need to prepare for life after death, look for and find out what our Creator wanted when He made us and gave us life. Thinking that if there is a God, He has ill intentions toward us, has kept many from ever beginning this search. The best kept secret in the world is that there is a God, and finding Him is the greatest discovery anyone can ever make.

He has more gifts for you and wants to do more good for you than anyone else in the world. To not look is to not find, and to not look is to be irresponsible. His promise to us is this: If we search for Him, we will find Him. Jesus repeated this promise in Luke 11:9-10, "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks

finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” This is a spiritual principle, a universal principle, and it will work for anyone. Read on to understand three more truths, which will help you as you prepare to meet God.

2. All Have Sinned

Why isn't it okay to just wait and see what happens in regards to eternity? Many people's view of life after death is that we won't really know till we get there, so just do your best and hope everything turns out well; we'll all just have to wait to find out when the time comes. Why is this not okay? Because no person is ready to stand before God in his own works. We all need a Savior. Romans 3:23 says that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That means all of us, no exceptions; not even the nicest or best person on earth is good enough or holy enough to stand before God alone. Without a Savior, without a representative, no one is prepared to stand before God based on his or her own merits. Those who have not confessed their faith in Jesus Christ will be judged by their works, which are written in God's books. These works include every thought, word, action, motive—everything!

The truth is, "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Romans 5:12 tells us why: "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because all sinned...." Adam became the man through whom sin entered the world. Consequently, all have sinned. Sin changed the human race from saints to sinners. Adam literally made sinners out of all of us. The consequences of what he did not only affected our conduct; it changed our very nature. Ephesians 2:3 says that "...among whom also we all [the entire human race] once conducted ourselves, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others" (brackets added).

Not only was our conduct wrong because of sin, but our nature was

wrong. Simply put, people sin because they are sinners. Sin put you and me in debt to God with a debt we could never pay.

3. Jesus Died for Your Sins

Once you understand and acknowledge that you are a sinner, to know that Jesus died for your sins is the greatest news you could ever receive. Sin has consequences. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death....” Sin pays a wage. And the result—the wage sin pays—is death. Thankfully, we don’t have to die for our own sins, because if we did, we would be eternally lost. The death of an unrighteous person could never pay the price necessary for forgiveness. Instead, Jesus came to earth and died for us. He died in our place.

First Corinthians 15:3 tells us that Christ died for our sins. According to Isaiah 53:5, “[Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities...” (brackets added). He paid our debt. He suffered in our place. Isaiah 53:12 says, “...He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” After Jesus died for our sins, He rose from the dead. His resurrection is pivotal, because if He died for our sins and He’s still dead, then the sentence continues; it’s not fully paid. But if He died for our sins and He’s now alive, then that debt was paid and it has no more hold, no more claim on us. There’s no more balance left on the debit sheet. There is nothing left to pay for our salvation.

First Corinthians 15:3-4 says, “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” This was the price He paid to purchase salvation for the world. Because Jesus paid the price, forgiveness and salvation are now free gifts. Romans 6:23 says, “...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This gift of eternal life through

faith in Christ is what every person needs. It includes forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life, and this alone will prepare you and me to meet God.

4. You Must Be Born Again

Since we are all sinners by birth, we need forgiveness, and we need a radical change on the inside of us. Jesus' death has to be applied to each of us personally. Yes, He died for the world, and yes, He paid the price so every person can be saved, but not every person is saved automatically. Jesus used a unique term to explain the salvation experience in John 3:3 when He was talking to a Jewish leader: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

The fourth Bible truth is this: You must be born again. It's not enough for Jesus to have died and paid the price. Everyone must accept what He did for them personally and be born again.

Being born again is a life-changing experience. It changes who you are on the inside. When you're born again, the sinful nature you inherited through Adam's sin dies. It passes away. It is crucified with Christ, and you become a new person with a new nature. In John 3:5, Jesus reiterated it. He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." That simply means you need to be born first as a human being, and then you need to be born again in spirit. In verse 7, He says it once more: "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" This is a wonderful command!

It is not difficult to be born again. It happens as the result of receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life. When you do that, a miracle happens on the inside. It's not something you can necessarily feel or see. It's not something that other people can look inside of you

and see, but it is a miracle. Second Corinthians 5:17 describes what happens when one accepts Christ as Savior: "...If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." When you accept Christ, instantly your sins are forgiven, and the old person you used to be passes away. You become a new creation. Jesus calls this being born again. Nothing less than this experience will prepare you to meet your Maker. It's not a change of attitude or habits, such as becoming nicer or getting over addiction or giving up your sinful ways. None of these things will prepare you to meet God. You must be born again.

The Bible talks about this experience using three different terms: One is "to be born again"; another "to receive eternal or everlasting life"; and the third is "to be saved." All three describe the same event. This new birth, or salvation experience, is so important that it is mentioned over and over in the New Testament. The Lord doesn't want anyone to miss the opportunity to be born again and to have his or her name written in the Book of Life. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." That is so simple anyone can do it. Anyone can choose to believe in Jesus.

The truth is that people ought to be running to God, not running away from Him. God has good intentions for every person, and He has solved humanity's greatest problem, which is sin, through the gift of His Son. Yet the world is filled with people who are trying to find a way to live life without God, and it's not working very well because we were all created by God to live life with God. We need Him. Not only does ignoring God not work well for people in this life, but they're totally unprepared for the hereafter.

Romans 10:9-10 says, “...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” This the way to be born again. This is the formula, the divine protocol to receive Jesus as your Savior and to be forgiven of your sins. By taking these simple steps, any person can get right with God. I’ve seen it work for many, many people. It’s worked for me, and it will work for anyone who will do it. No one is excluded. This good news is for every person, including you. If you’ll follow the directions in these verses, you can receive salvation today. You can be born again right now.

Let’s look at this scripture again. Romans 10:9 says, “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” If you’ve never done this and you’d like to, I want to invite you to pray this prayer with me. It’s very childlike, but God likes to make things simple. Join me in praying the following prayer from your heart:

God I come to You in the name of Jesus. I accept Your offer of salvation today through Jesus Christ. I ask You to forgive me for all my sins. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and that He was raised from the dead. I confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior. According to Your Word in Romans 10:9, I am now saved. Thank You for forgiving me and saving me today and giving me new life in Jesus.

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, it’ll work for you just as it’s worked for me and millions and millions of others. God didn’t make this difficult. It’s just very specific. Not all roads lead to God. There’s only one Savior that can prepare you to stand before God, and His name is Jesus Christ. I didn’t make the rules; I just discovered them. I searched

and found these truths many years ago. And I'm glad that you've made this same discovery.

If you prayed that prayer, I'm going to ask you to do a couple of things. One is to begin to read the Bible. You could start in the book of John. We quoted a lot of verses from John in this teaching. Start there, then read the Epistles after that. And work on developing your own prayer life. Praying is simply talking to God. Find a quiet place where you can be alone, and just begin to talk to God. He promises to hear you.

Also, tell someone about your new journey in Christ. You can contact our ministry, and we'll give you some free materials to help you get started. Then, contact a local church that preaches the Bible, and start attending regularly. It's critical to find a church to belong to so you can be fed and nurtured by a godly pastor.

Prepare yourself for the brand-new life that is now before you. May God bless you today! If you have any questions or if you need additional prayer, please feel free to contact our ministry. We would love to hear from you and please visit us at gregfritz.org for other encouraging messages and articles.

Please check out these other books from Greg Fritz Ministries:

- *Living With No Regrets*
- *Good News*
- *Living in Stressful Times*

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