

## One thing to do before you die



Dave Freeman died at his home in Venice, California at age 47. Just a few years ago, he and his friend Neil Teplica co-authored a hugely successful book entitled: 100 Things to do Before You Die.

He wrote, "This life is a short journey. Make sure you fill it with the most fun and visit the coolest places on earth before you pack those bags for the very last time."

Among the 100 things to do before you die, Dave Freeman included such things as the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain and land-diving (leaping from massive handmade towers, with vines attached to your ankles) on the remote Pacific island of Vanuatu.

Mr. Freeman didn't die while running with the bulls or in a land-diving accident. He died in a much more mundane way - tripped and hit his head in a fall at his home.

The Bible is right when it says that death is but a step away.

People plan for other trips in life, but for the last trip often they are unprepared and caught off guard. Do you think a book entitled: One Thing to Do Before You Die would become a bestseller? Would you read it? Would you do it?

The one thing you must do before you die is "prepare to meet your God" (**Amos 4:12**).

When you cross over the boundary between life and death, it is final and forever.

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (**Hebrews 9:27**). Make sure you are ready to meet God.

## How do you prepare?

Your sin is a barrier between you and your God (**Isaiah 59:2**). Unless that barrier of sin is removed you will be separated from God forever. You will be in a place where the Bible teaches there is conscious eternal suffering.

There is nothing you can personally do or contribute towards the removal of your sins.

In **Romans 5:6**, the Bible says we are "without any strength" to save ourselves.



## BUT THERE'S GOOD NEWS

**Christ died for your sins**  
(1 Corinthians 15:3).

**Christ Jesus**  
**came into the world to**  
**SAVE sinners**  
(1 Timothy 1:15).

Have you ever realized that you are the guilty one and He was the innocent One who became your substitute and took upon Himself the punishment your sins fully deserved?

The moment you appreciate that beautiful truth and trust Christ as your Saviour, your sins will be fully and freely forgiven. That's what it means to be prepared to meet God!

\* \* \*

*Nearing the end of life, he said, "Tranquil and happy, though very weak. My theology is very simple. I can express it in few words and they are enough to die by." After a pause, he slowly said, "Jesus died for me." C.H. Spurgeon*

## RESISTING RESCUE



It seems bizarre that someone who was perishing would resist being rescued, and yet it happened

A 30-year old man climbed over the retaining wall and jumped into the rapids of Niagara's Horseshoe Falls. Quickly the currents carried him towards the 173-foot drop. Even if he wanted to, there could be no turning back. The 675,000 gallons of water that plunge over the cataract every second hurled him like a toothpick over the famous falls.

Very few have ever survived such a fatal plunge, but incredibly the man resurfaced at the bottom in the fierce currents. He was conscious and clinging to a piece of driftwood. A Niagara police officer yelled for him to swim towards shore. Letting go of the driftwood he headed in the opposite direction, swimming between the chunks of ice.

A helicopter flew low over the man and extended a pole but he refused the rescue attempt and swam away. Despite the treacherous conditions of ice, high winds and waves the helicopter pilot angled the chopper blades to create a wave that would push the man towards the shore.

Rescuers were racing against the clock. After thirty minutes in the icy waters the man was weakening but remained totally uncooperative. A firefighter jumped into the river and pulled the perishing man to shore.

He was rescued against his will. God sees people from every walk of life heading towards the same end. Despite the warning of Hell ahead, people swim on in the swirling current of their sins. For some the current may be religion or pride. For others, it may be drugs or sex. Everyone going to Heaven has a moment when Christ the Saviour 'pulled them out of the turbulent rapids' of sin. Do you have such a moment?

Are you thinking correctly? Do you understand that your sins are deadly, and you will eventually perish if you resist or refuse God's rescue? Are you cooperating with God or struggling to keep your distance from Him? Tragically, people push on in their chosen path, dodging God's efforts to stop them.

Has something ever happened in your life that gave you thoughts of God or caused you to think about life after death? Don't brush those thoughts aside. That is equivalent to swimming in the opposite direction.

Are you avoiding the welcoming and saving arms of the Lord Jesus as He invites you to come to Him for salvation? The Lord Jesus said – He came

“to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

He came to rescue sinners and to give them an abundant life (John 10:10). He invites perishing sinners, –

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

The looming precipice is not a mere 173-foot drop. Hell is ahead for sinners who refuse the Saviour. Unlike the Niagara incident, there is no possibility of being rescued once the plunge is taken.



The time to be rescued from your sins is now – today.



God rescues no one against his will.



He speaks to you through life's circumstances and through His Word the Bible.



He urges you to trust Christ as your Rescuer.



But in the end, the choice is yours.

Jesus promised – that He will never cast out anyone who comes to Him (**John 6:37**). The Word of God promises that “Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (**Romans 10:13**).

\* \* \*

## HE CAME FROM THE MANSIONS OF GLORY

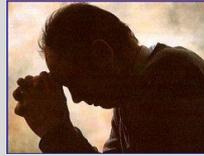
Oh, sweet is the story of Jesus,  
The wonderful Saviour of men,  
Who suffered and died for the sinner –  
I'll tell it again and again!

He came from the mansions of glory;  
His blood as a ransom He gave,  
To purchase eternal redemption,  
**And oh, He is mighty to save!**

His mercy flows on like a river,  
His love is unmeasured and free;  
His grace is forever sufficient,  
It reaches and purifies me.

Oh, wonderful, wonderful story,  
The dearest that ever was told;  
I'll repeat it in glory,  
The wonderful story,  
Where I shall His beauty behold.  
CH Gabriel

### POINT TO PONDER



Do you understand that your sins are deadly, and you will eventually perish if you resist or refuse God's rescue?

**Bringing the Word of Life,  
PO Box 12,  
Carrickfergus,  
Northern Ireland.  
BT38 7YD.**

[www.btwol.com](http://www.btwol.com)

[newlife@btwol.com](mailto:newlife@btwol.com)