

WHEN SOMETHING DIES

30/3/14

Without the death of other living matter, most forms of life on the planet would come to a halt. Plants need nutrients from the soil to grow, just like people also need food. Soil nutrients mostly come from the breakdown of mineral bearing rocks and from organic matter, which comes from the decomposition (death) of plants and animals... an endless cycle. God has revealed that the soul that is in a man is also a form of life, far more distinct than any other life form. Our soul also has a capacity to live... yet its life is not dependent on organic matter, but spiritual. This is where the salvation message revealing the purposes of Christ becomes an essential tool for life after physical death.

*Something has to die to make life possible... Jesus died so we might live. We need to feed our soul on spiritual food and not natural thinking... **ROM 8:13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. If we die to the deceit and demands of ungodly practices (put worldliness to death), then a new life will spring from us and will continue to grow as long as we help it develop.*

Jesus revealed part of the natural life cycle, as being principally the same as the spiritual cycle.

JOH 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. *What do seeds need before they can grow? Seeds can't germinate until three needs are met: water, correct temperature (warmth), and a good location (such as in soil). During its early stages of growth, the seedling relies upon the food supplies stored with it in the seed until it is large enough for its own leaves to begin making food through photosynthesis.*

What must we do before we can begin our spiritual life?

ACT 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent (good attitude equals good soil), and be baptized every one of you (water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (the fire or light of God). *The symbolism is not coincidental, nor is it difficult to understand... no wonder Jesus used such simple parables to explain what could be otherwise, quite complex topics.*

What do plants need to make food? *The seedling's roots push down into the soil to anchor the new plant and to absorb water and minerals from the soil. And its stem with new leaves pushes up toward the light. Plants make food in their leaves. The leaves contain a pigment called chlorophyll, which gives them their green colour. Chlorophyll makes food that the plant can use from carbon dioxide, water, nutrients, and energy from sunlight. This process is called photosynthesis... Likewise, God offers us what we need to grow and prosper. **1JOH 4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit (power). **ROM 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **PSA 1:3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

During the process of photosynthesis, plants release oxygen into the air. People and animals need oxygen to breathe... to live. Similarly, those who are born again are also able to breath life back into this world.

ACT 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. *Like plants, we can take the dead and sickly items of this world and convert them into real blessings.*

All plants need to be cultivated and cared for, if the best results are to be achieved. One of the most productive actions for plants, is pruning. This involves cutting off the unneeded branches, providing more energy for better fruit, better growth and providing a more attractive appearance. God uses these principles with us.

JOH 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. *God does not play games when it comes to matters of spiritual life... he views this topic with the same levity that good parents take towards the safety of their children.*

Jesus presents a very simple choice for us to make and honour.

MAR 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it (like a seed that never germinates); but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. *When something dies for God... then only life and blessing can result. Not only can we choose life, but we can enhance and multiply its effectiveness; thus we invest in more ways to serve God at the expense of this worlds pleasures. What other natural interest can you prune or let die, that will bring you to a far better place in your faith and life?*