

HIS LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Luke 23:46

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: When just a young boy Jesus told His mother and Joseph, "...*How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?...*" Now as a grown man from the cross upon which He has been nailed, Jesus says, "...*Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit...*" The business Jesus told Mary and Joseph that He must be busy doing for His heavenly Father has now been finished, which He had been about all His life and now He had come to the end of His earthly day, there was nothing left undone and Jesus could say to His heavenly Father, "...*I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do...*" Jesus now puts Himself into His heavenly Father's hands because He has always desired to be there, in His Father's house, with His heavenly Father and now He is ready to depart into His Father's hands and to abide there with Him forever. Oh, that all believers in Jesus can say those same last words with the same intent and earnestness.

I. JESUS' LAST WORDS JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH

1. All through His earthly life, Jesus had lived the Word of God and now in His dying moments, He is still speaking the Word of God.
 - All through His ministry Jesus quoted scripture and the great majority of His speaking points can also be traced to the Old Testament.
 - Jesus was familiar with God's Word from the first page to the last, every word and every intent and meaning.
 - It would be only natural for Jesus to quote from God's Word in His dying breath which He did and it was from *Psalms 31:5*.
 - His sufferings were over and with the clearness of mind, Jesus quoted from the Book of Psalms "...*Into thy hands I commit My spirit...*"
 - What an example for believers.
 - The word of God was food for Jesus, He lived on the Word of God although He didn't need God's Word as much as we do, yet He lived on the Word and then died on the Word.
 - Oh that all believers might get into the heart of God's Word themselves as Jesus did.
 - Not glancing here and there nor looking up just specific verses or historical things, but to "eat and drink" every Word into one's soul and heart.
2. In His last moments just before death, Jesus recognized God as being PERSONAL.
 - "...*FATHER, into thy hands I commend My spirit...*"
 - God is unknown to some as they say "there may be a God, all things are God, nobody can be sure that there is a God, or well there is a God, but He is very far off..."
 - Jesus' last words revealed that He knew for a fact that God was a very real person.
 - Dying people do not resign themselves to the unknown, some distant being, who may be real or not.
 - Jesus knew who He was talking to, His heavenly Father and knew Him to be a real person and it was into the hands of that heavenly Father that He commended His spirit.
 - A false, make believe religion will bring only false and make believe comfort in one's dying hour.
 - If one's God is not real, then one's religion is unreal and if one's God is a dream, then any hope is but a dream.

3. In His last words, Jesus reveals God as being a Heavenly FATHER.
 - Jesus did not say "**...O God, into thine hand I commit My spirit...**" but He said, "**...FATHER!**"
 - Jesus had said before, "**...Wist ye not that I must be at my FATHER'S business...**"
 - "**...I must be in My Father's house...**"
 - It was because Jesus had said that God was His Father that He had been persecuted and finally put to death and now in His dying moments, He said, "**...Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit...**"
 - What a blessed thing it is for believers to die aware, conscious that they are also the children of God.

4. Jesus gladly gave up His soul to His Heavenly Father when it was time for Him to die.
 - There was no absolute necessity for Jesus to die EXCEPT that He had taken upon Himself to become the substitute for mankind.
 - There was not any necessity for His death even for this last moment on the cross, for He could have unloosened the nails, He could have called ten thousand angels to come down and scatter the mocking mob, but Jesus died of His own free will - the JUST for the unjust that He might bring the unjust (us) to God.
 - Through the ages there have been people who have given their lives for others, such as soldiers but they would have died at some time or other anyhow, but in Jesus' case, He was deliberately giving up to God, His heavenly Father, His spirit for "**...no man taketh it from me..I lay it down of myself...**"
 - Jesus stands alone in His death, for He performed that act from the glorious motive of redeeming lost mankind (us) from death and hell.
 - When God calls us to die, hopefully, we, too can go with God's Word on our lips also.

II. THE WORDS JESUS SPOKE SHOULD BE USED EVERYDAY IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

1. "**...Into thine hand I commit my spirit...**"
 - One's soul is quite safe in the hands of the Heavenly Father and the soul is the most valuable part of a person's being.
 - Faith is what saves a person and that person can then say "I trust myself to God as He reveals Himself in Jesus Christ, I cannot keep myself, but he can keep me, so I take my spirit and give it over into the Heavenly Father's hand."
 - Every day repeat this process as long as you live.

2. There are some believers who sadly add "Thy will be done, and my will, too..." or "...Lord, make my will thy will.." instead of "Make thy will MY will..."
 - God has redeemed the believer, isn't that good enough reason to give one's self entirely to God?
 - Jesus has redeemed the believer and therefore the believer belongs to Jesus Christ.
 - If God has given His Son to die for mankind (us) will He then keep back other mercies that the believer needs to live his/her daily life?
 - Let every believer declare every day, "**...Into thine hand I commit my spirit...**"

III. BELIEVERS CAN USE JESUS' DYING WORDS FOR THEMSELVES WHEN THEY, TOO DIE

1. **Acts 7:59**, Stephen, a man of God was being stoned to death and he called upon God saying, "**...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit...**"
 - Stephen did not say that he was afraid that his poor spirit was going to die for the spirit still exists after physical, human death, it is something which Jesus Christ can indeed receive.
2. Stephen knew for certain that Jesus Christ was near for he said, "**...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God...**"
 - Many others since Stephen have also seen a similar thing and it is no strange thing to hear of a believer in Jesus Christ seeing, hearing, experiencing things beyond the normal human capabilities and they speak of seeing things of heaven and of loved ones who have already gone there.
 - If a believer asks the Lord Jesus Christ to receive his/her spirit, and He does, who/what can then hurt that believer? Who can snatch that believer out of Jesus' hands?
3. The believer can be assured that Jesus is quite willing to take him/her into His hands.
 - Believers have already put themselves into the hands of Jesus when they believed in Him and they need not be ashamed to repeat that same experience every day.
 - God has appointed the day when each believer will leave this world in death and ten thousand devils/demons cannot put the believer in the grave before God's appointed time.
 - The believer will not die till God says so.
 - Believers can depart this life as if it were their choice for what believer would not choose to do so if asked the question, given the opportunity by God?
 - Some believers think that God must have forgotten about them as they are getting to be pretty old in their years and often when a friend of theirs is dying, the older saint tells the one dying, " Give my love to so and so and tell them I hope to see them soon, God willing."

CONCLUSION:

1. Let no believer become unwilling and struggle, strive or fret and worry about physical death and any who do, raises concern in the minds and hearts of others as to whether that person is really a part of the family of God.
2. Believer, go walk through a cemetery and walk amid the graves, the memorials and know that that is where you must also go some day, in God's time.....and then look forward to that time and welcome that glorious day when you will leave your physical body here and your soul and spirit will go immediately into the hands of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
3. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, that's another matter for Jesus will not be there to welcome you into the gates of Heaven for all who have rejected God's Son, Jesus Christ will go to another place and it is called Hell and it is a place of eternal suffering and separation from God.
 - Seek the Lord now, trust Jesus Christ and find eternal life.
 - If you have done so, do not be afraid to go forth to live or to die, whatever God wants.
4. "**...Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit...**"