

No. 12 “Throw Off . . . the Sin That Easily Entangles Us” (Symposium) —Jehovah Will Resurrect the Dead

Note to speaker:

In this final part of the symposium, encourage the brothers to stay faithful even under severe trials. This talk includes a demonstration

JEHOVAH WILL ‘LONG FOR THE WORK OF HIS HANDS’ (4 min.)

Few things cause more anxiety than when our life or that of a family member is in danger

Life is precious to Jehovah and to his servants

Jehovah has given us a sure hope that strengthens us to maintain integrity even under severe trials

When facing any life-threatening situation, we need to exercise strong faith in the resurrection

We must have confidence like that of Job [**Read Job 14:14, 15**]

Jehovah will act on his strong desire to resurrect those in his memory

The Bible contains strong evidence for belief in the resurrection

In each of the nine resurrections recorded in the Bible, eyewitnesses saw those who were resurrected; there were over 500 eyewitnesses to the fact that Jesus was resurrected (1Co 15:6; *w16.24*; *w15 8/14*)

WHEN PERSECUTORS THREATEN US WITH DEATH (5 min.)

The temptation: To give in to the fear of man

Opposers may try to use the threat of death to instill fear and weaken us [**Read Proverbs 29:25**]

Satan claimed that “a man will give everything that he has for his life” (Job 2:4)

Compromising one’s faith would not necessarily bring relief from suffering (*yb96 87*)

What to do: Remain confident in God’s power to save—by resurrection if necessary

[**Read Hebrews 11:17-19**] Having strong faith in the resurrection enabled Abraham to pass the greatest test of his faith, involving his son, Isaac (*w16.02 11 ¶13*)

God’s spirit can empower us when we are threatened (Ac 4:29; 5:27-29; Re 12:11)

WHEN FACED WITH SEVERE ILLNESS AND POSSIBLE DEATH (5 min.)

The temptation: To resort to an unscriptural practice in an effort to prolong life [**Read Mark 8:35, 36**]

We do not accept medical treatments that conflict with Bible principles (*w08 11/15 25 ¶10*)

We do not accept blood transfusions (Ge 9:4; Ac 15:28, 29)

We refuse medical therapies linked with spiritism

Becoming overly focused on preserving life in this system of things can weaken our resolve to remain faithful

What to do: Put faith in Jehovah as the Source of life (Ps 36:9)

Jehovah has revealed the only way to everlasting life (Joh 5:24)

If we remain faithful, our future life is assured

[**Read Proverbs 18:14**] Jehovah promises to strengthen and sustain us when we are ill (Ps 41:3; *w15 12/15 24-25 ¶6-10*)

If pressured or tempted to resort to unscriptural medical treatment, ask Jehovah to strengthen your faith and to help others understand and respect your position

DEMONSTRATION (3 min.)

****[A Christian husband is deeply concerned about his wife’s failing health. They have just learned that her condition is terminal. He has heard about another possible treatment option to save his wife and is now confiding in a fellow Witness, Tony, who is a close friend. The participants may use their own names if they prefer]****

Husband: Thank you for coming to see me here at the hospital, Tony. Things are not going well. We received the bad news that after a long fight with her disease, Mary is not going to live much longer. The doctors have treated us well, but now they say that they have done all that they can. We are both so tired. And I am scared.

Tony: Oh, I am so sorry to hear that. Please assure Mary of our love and support.

Husband: Do you mind checking on our house? It may be another week before we can return home. And right now, I am so consumed with this situation. Can you please let the elders know what has developed?

Tony: No problem. I will follow through for you. If you think of anything else I can do for both of you, please call me.

Husband: ****[Long pause; husband places both hands on his forehead]**** Well, there may be something you could do . . .

Tony: Go ahead, what do you need?

Husband: Tony, I am desperate—desperate for Mary to live. Her non-Witness family wants her to try a treatment that is common in our home country. At this point, we are willing to try anything. Could you help us arrange to get that treatment?

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Tony: Absolutely. You can count on me. I will talk with some of our close friends who may also be able to help.

****[Participants freeze]****

Speaker: Has Tony been hasty in agreeing to help? While Tony cannot dictate to the brother what to do in this situation, he needs to consider his own conscience as well as how he can help Mary to remain faithful to Jehovah. Let's give Tony another opportunity to respond.

****[Scene continues]****

Tony: I know that the situation is urgent. But before I agree to help, I need to know a little more. Do you understand what is involved in the treatment that Mary's family is recommending?

Husband: I don't know the details. Nobody knows exactly how or why it works.

Tony: That concerns me. Of course, not all traditional or alternative treatments are linked to spiritism. But are you sure that this treatment is not? You have taken tender care of Mary during this entire ordeal. You can be confident that Jehovah is pleased with what you have done. Now it is very important for you and Mary both to make sure that you keep maintaining your good relationship with Jehovah.

Husband: I understand what you are saying. I appreciate those words.

Tony: While I cannot tell you what to do, I am willing to work with you to learn more about this particular treatment. Then, if pursuing the treatment does not bother your conscience or mine, we can talk about how I can help. Have faith in Jehovah and his ability to give life even to someone who dies. This is what strengthens us to endure.

Husband: You know, you are absolutely correct. Mary would not want us to do something that would offend Jehovah or damage our relationship with him. Thanks for listening to me. Can you talk to Mary's family with me? I need help from someone who is thinking clearly and is not as tired as I am.

Tony: We can call them right now. And then we can do some research. Perhaps we can also find out how the treatment is viewed by mature brothers who are familiar with it. But first, let's say a prayer together and ask Jehovah for his blessing and direction.

****[Participants exit]****

RUN THE RACE TO THE FINISH (2 min.)

Our strong faith protects us even now from many problems and difficulties

Maintaining our faith to the end will result in "the preserving of our lives" (Heb 10:39)

 Soon Jehovah will use his Son and the Messianic Kingdom to wipe out this old world with all its injustice and wickedness and bring an end to sickness and death

 At that time, we will enjoy a full reward for our faithfulness

Review question: What is "the sin that easily entangles us," and how can we avoid it?

Answer: Hebrews 12:1; "the sin that easily entangles us" is lack of faith. To avoid this sin, we must be determined to trust in Jehovah when faced with severe trials

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)