***October 21, 2018***

***Today’s Lesson: The Big Sleep***

**From Mike:**

We are down to the last two **Spirit Quenchers** on my list. I had several really good suggestions, but most of them were already on my list or fit better as sub-points under one of the one’s on the list. Obviously, you might have had a different list than the one I came up with because the list is truly endless. The number of things that Satan can use to cause the Spirit’s flame to go out in our life is huge. I picked the ones that we all struggle with on some level or another. Some might be more applicable to you than others, but I believe they all challenge us and tempt us to be distracted from growing in Christ.

 Today’s **Spirit Quencher** is not fun to talk about or think about. It is all inclusive—no one is exempt, but the challenge is, how much does it effect the Spirit’s flame in our life? Today we are going to talk about death. The very fact that we don’t want to talk about it, or might be uncomfortable talking about it, simply shows what a Spirit quencher it can be. In our cultural thinking, death is the worst thing that could happen to us. No matter how terrible something may be, we still say, “But at least I’m alive!” That’s something to be thankful about, but is it really the worst thing that could happen? Should a Christian think of dying as the worst thing that can happen? Would Jesus have described dying that way? I think not. He was ready and willing to get back to His Father and the spirit realm they exist in. He wasn’t happy or excited about facing crucifixion—which is why he was asking if there was another way to do it in the garden—but he knew what the result would be once he put his physical body and world behind him. He longed to be home. We still think this is it!

 Our challenge is to not let our worldly perceptions about death and dying cause us to dread the very thing that God describes as a transition to immortality and paradise! He calls it a victory! But, we don’t always feel that way. We have doubts, fears, and misgivings. We spout spiritual clichés and comforting counsel when someone else dies, but in the back of our brains we say, “Glad it’s not me!”

 That is a spiritual disconnect! That is not what faith or the Word of God tells us about how we should think about death.