

**WILL  
HARRY POTTER**

**ESCAPE**

**DEATH?**

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Written by: John MacDonald  
Cover design by: Ian Murray  
Special thanks to: Justen Mills

Contact us: [info@realsuperman.net](mailto:info@realsuperman.net)  
Visit our website: [www.realsuperman.net](http://www.realsuperman.net)

Biblical quotations are from the New International Version unless indicated otherwise.

John MacDonald resides in Quebec, Canada, with his wife and two daughters. He has been involved in youth ministry for many years. Presently, John and his family host weekly sports nights for local teens. John teaches a class at church on Sundays.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Death and danger was all around Harry. He was nearly killed many times. Death was a real evil thing which was a warning to him to be careful and wise in his adventures. Death is a possibility for us too. In fact, death is almost a certainty. The lessons that Harry got about death can show us how to escape our own death.

The enemy of Harry was Lord Voldemort. Voldemort's spirit was seeking to take the life of others so that he could live again. The ways that he chose were all evil methods but the desire to live forever is deep inside all of us as well.

God wants us to live forever. He wants us to find the secret to life and escape death forever. Jesus said, "Seek and you will find." However, many people will not escape and will be destroyed with eternal death.

God wants us to trust in Jesus to forgive us for our sins. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death has no more power over him. If Jesus has forgiven our sins, we are friends with Jesus and we will live forever with him in heaven. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that anyone who believes in him, will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Harry wanted to escape but he was in danger while seeking for answers. Harry wanted to find life and peace. Let's consider the pathway to life and the way that Harry should take.

## **THE EXISTENCE OF DEATH**

The Harry Potter movies were filled with images of death. The first movie started with darkness, a wizard and a black cat. The lights of the lanterns were put out one by one by the wizard. The cat changed into a witch.

But there was a baby too. This was a sign of life.

Unfortunately, the baby's parents had been killed and it had a lightning scar on its forehead. The mark had been graven into the very being of the baby and it would never come out. This was Harry Potter, who would learn how evil death was.

There is evil in the real world too. Disease and danger causes death to occur to all who enter our world. Sometimes we cannot see the evil around us. There is so much that is good in life that we don't recognize that death is an important part of what goes on here. Plants die, animals die and people die.

## **THE ORIGIN OF DEATH**

Harry learned that strange things were starting to happen on the day that he turned 11. He went to the zoo with his cousin and found a snake enclosed behind a glass barrier. Harry was able to talk to the snake and snake could talk to him.

Through Harry's anger the glass barrier was removed and the snake was able to escape into the world. It hissed a "thanks" to Harry. It slithered past a few children and screams followed it through the hallway.

The origin of death in the real world also began when a snake spoke. This was Satan, the enemy of God, who came in a disguise to trick the woman that God had created. The snake said to the woman "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden; and you must not touch it, or you will die.'

'You will not surely die,' the serpent said. 'God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked.

God said to Adam, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'

From this time, death has existed in the world. Death has passed down to us. We are in danger.

In our world too there is a snake on the loose. Satan has gone into the world and he is scaring and trying to kill as many people as he can. He does it in many ways. Sometimes death comes quickly and sometimes it takes a long time. But death is always at work in our bodies and it should be our goal to try to escape death.

## **CONSIDERING DEATH**

Harry was starting to see that evil exists. The family that adopted Harry was mean to him. He was mistreated and disliked by the family. They prevented Harry from experiencing joy or love.

Harry was invited to attend Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Compared to his life with his aunt and uncle, it was a sort of escape. In reality though, it was bringing Harry closer to death than he had ever been. By entering the door to magic, he was entering the place where enemies and terrifying beasts desired blood and mastery.

In our lives, we face situations that aren't nice. In difficult times it is important to remember that God exists and to trust in Him. God is aware of all that happens and can be our friend and comforter. The Bible says that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28). Our job is to love him and to search for him first of all. He loved humans so much that he sent Jesus to live on the earth to do miracles and then to die for us. He loves us every moment of every day. He can help us if we pray to him and he will show us what to do in our lives. The Bible says to "put all your cares upon God because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

The movie world allowed Harry to enter the world of magic and he discovered how evil that world was. We are told in the Bible to choose to do good and not to do evil. This requires us to make choices. Good choices will help us. We should make the choice not to study the world of magic or practice strange religions. We should choose to learn about God, read the words of Jesus in the Bible and to do kind and productive things.

## **DISCOVERING DEATH**

The world of magic was a strange world, full of things and beings that Harry had no idea about.

There were new things to see. The magical objects Harry saw had unusual shapes and purposes. All of these things had a strangely evil side to them. The black colour was more obvious and made the mood darker.

Harry found that it was not possible to really trust anyone. There were suspicious people that looked unsafe and strange. Some people who appeared to be friendly often turned out to be an enemy. Hagrid was Harry's guide but he was an unknown being to Harry and had secrets that were dangerous.

Magical things happened. There was power that he had never experienced before. Dangerous things happened. Harry saw that he could be hurt and even die.

The threat of death became real to Harry when he learned that the one who had killed his parents was known here. This was the evil wizard, "he who cannot be named". The wizard actually knew Harry and had given him his scar on his head. Incredibly, Harry learned that he was connected to the most evil thing in the magical world and that this wizard was looking for him to kill him. This made it the worst day in his life so far.

We also have a connection to the evil wizard of our world. When Adam and Eve obeyed Satan, they gave him authority on earth. Satan's rule includes bringing death to everyone. However, "God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God has power to save that is not evident in the Harry Potter movies. We too have to identify death and threats that will lead to death.

## **WARNINGS OF DEATH**

There were many warnings about death. Draco Malfoy presented himself to Harry Potter. He warned Harry against Ron and others. Later, Draco's father, Lucius, threatened Harry a number of times. Dobby the house elf warned Harry that some people were planning to kill him.

There were places that were deadly as well. Dumbledore warned all of the students that, "the third floor corridor on the right hand side is out of bounds to everyone who doesn't want to die a most painful death."

The worst warning of death was an inner death, a spiritual death. "There's not a witch or wizard who went bad who wasn't in Slytherin."

The Bible warns us about death as well.

“The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Sin is anything that we think, say or do that breaks God’s law. All of us are guilty of doing sin and therefore we will get the punishment of physical and spiritual death. Fortunately, Jesus offers us eternal life if we trust in him for our salvation. This life will be a spiritual friendship with God in this world and then an eternal life of friendship with God in heaven.

God warns us to love Jesus most of all. God wants us to be alert to what may appear tempting and desirable but will lead us into destruction. God wants us to choose not to love sinful things. Death comes through greed, lust, pride and hatred. Pray for God to take these away.

## **RESISTING DEATH**

When Harry was going to be placed in one of the four groups of the school, the sorting hat made the observation that he would do well in Slytherin house. Harry recognized that Slytherin had a tradition of evil and he didn’t want to be in that group. “Not Slytherin. Not Slytherin. Please, anything but Slytherin.” He resisted being put into an evil pathway and because of this he was not placed in that group.

Jesus was also tempted to turn to the dark side. When he had been in the desert for 40 days, Satan came to him and tempted him to turn stone into bread, and to worship him. Jesus answered,

“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” (Matthew 4:10)

The Bible says to “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). We can resist sinful behaviour by turning away from tempting things, by not saying hurtful words and by not harming other people.

Harry wanted to be away from the influences of Slytherin house. He chose friends that were not evil. We also should choose our friends wisely. Have friends that love God and will be an encouragement for you to progress in life.

It is important to go to church and to hear the words of God. By worshipping God in singing, you are put straight and are lifted up close to

heaven. The person that God wants you to marry will most probably be found in church. The love of God can be your uniting interest.

## **IDENTIFYING DEATH**

The evil forces became evident during the movies. It was possible to identify things and people that were evil. Harry and his friends were able to investigate the causes of evil and try to stop them. It took careful thought to know the correct answers to the mysteries. It took study and wisdom that others could give them.

Through investigating our world, we learn what is true. Our parents and grandparents are our first teachers and they love us the most. We should follow their godly advice to us and we will have a long life on earth.

Eventually we learn that God has a greater love for us than even our parents do. He can take us further on. To identify our path for the future we should study his words. This will help us identify the enemies and dangers that await us as we walk through our days.

The Bible says “do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God” (1 John 4:1-3). We should test every thought, temptation and sentence we hear by comparing them with what God says.

Death is what comes from doing wrong things. We should take warning messages seriously. We have all heard messages about not smoking, drinking, doing drugs and having sex before marriage. The change in life that results from these habits shows signs of death. Try to find healthy behaviours so that you don't get trapped.

## **UNDERSTANDING DEATH**

Death is evil. There are many aspects to death which include: fearful, painful, gruesome, sad and eternal. In the Harry Potter movies, death was often caused by evil things. Death was savage and hateful. Most of the aspects of death become apparent in the movies.

The fearful aspect of death was evident during Harry's first Quidditch game when he was being cursed. Harry was nearly thrown off of his broom

to his death. In another Quidditch game one of the balls was cursed to attack and smash Harry. Harry barely escaped.

When the students were learning how to repot mandrakes, the plants were able to scream. This screaming continued until they were shoved underground and suffocated with dirt. This was a horrible sound that showed sadness, desperation, fear and pain.

Nearly headless Nick showed the students what losing a head was like. Blood and gore came out. This made the students disgusted.

The savageness of death was evident at different times when Voldemort attacked his enemies. He used different methods to try to kill and gave no mercy.

Harry also learned about the sadness of death. He saw an image of his parents in the magical mirror. He couldn't be with them anymore. Dumbledore told him, "Death separates us from our loved ones." Dumbledore also informed him that there was no magic that could bring his parents back to life.

In the Bible, death is called "the last enemy". Death has come in many ways since the world has begun. It has always been evil and powerful.

There are many graves in the world. Anyone who has ever been born has one. Many are hidden and lost but most graves have been treated with respect. Since graves have been respected by many people, graves can indicate how long earth's history has lasted. The lack of trillions of graves in the world indicates that the world is not millions of years old. There should be more graves in the earth if the evolutionary theory is correct.

The Bible has stories of death. Each person in the Bible has died and there are examples of terrible deaths and deaths that showed honour. Similarly to the Harry Potter stories, death is described as fearful, painful, gruesome, sad and eternal.

The death of Jesus was the most surprising in the world. His death was surprising since he planned, organized, completed and defeated it. He allowed Judas to betray him (John 13:27). He allowed himself to be crucified even when he could have escaped (Matthew 26:52-54). Jesus suffered on the cross for three hours and God put all the sins of the world on him so that they could be punished (Isaiah 53:6). Since he had not been guilty of any sin, death could not keep its hold on him. He rose again after three days (Luke 24:1-7). After his resurrection "he was seen by Peter, and the twelve disciples and he appeared to a group of more than five hundred people at the same time" (1 Corinthians 15:5-6).

When we understand death we dislike it. When we understand our sin, God wants us to dislike it and be sorry for it. God says that “if my people will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

## **SPEAKING DEATH**

The evil thoughts of the movie came out verbally. There were curses, threats and voices of death. Whenever the characters cast spells on each other, they were speaking death against each other. It was forbidden to use certain curses because of how evil they were.

The death curse was the strongest curse of all. It had been spoken even before the first movie began. It began with Voldemort cursing Harry and his mother. This death curse bounced back onto Voldemort and caused his own defeat. He enjoyed using the killing curse and causing pain to his enemies.

Speaking like a snake or understanding a snake was a bad sign since the evil wizards had spoken as snakes and used snakes. The basilisk spoke while it was hunting for a new victim. Harry could hear it “Kill... kill... they must all die. Kill... kill...”

Hearing voices inside one’s head and allowing the voices to speak out was a bad sign. Evil spirits could control the body and mind to tell lies. When the fortune teller, Professor Trelawney, spoke to Harry he was frightened by the scary look on her face. He was more afraid of what she said. She spoke curses at him.

God doesn’t want us to threaten or curse others. He wants us to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). He doesn’t want us to hear words of death either. We should go away from or turn off words that lead to death.

In order for us to speak good thoughts, we need to have good thoughts in us. The way to know good thoughts is to read what is in the Bible and in other good books. Filling our minds with truth will enable us to resist temptation and resist sinning.

## **ROBBING DEATH**

Voldemort was constantly trying to rob death. His own name means “robbery of death” in the French language. “Vol” means “rob” or “fly” and “mort” means death. His name indicates his goal - to escape death.

Voldemort didn't want to die and stop his control of others. He wanted dominion and control of all others. He killed and drank the blood of unicorns in order to survive. He was trying to steal the Philosopher's stone so that he could make the elixir of life to become immortal. In other movies he nearly killed Ginny Weasley to live again. Finally he used Harry's blood to make a spell that did bring him back to hideous life.

In all of Voldemort's efforts he proved that he was evil. He used his abilities to defeat others and cause death. What power could prevent his total victory? Harry and his friends tried to find the secret.

Jesus is the one who truly robbed death. He is infinite in worth since he is God and because he had not done any sin, death could not hold him.

The greatest robbery of death will occur in the future. “I am telling you this strange and wonderful secret: we shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies! It will all happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet blast is blown. For there will be trumpet blast from the sky and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too. For our earthly bodies, the ones we have now that can die, must be transformed into heavenly bodies that cannot perish but will live forever. (2 Corinthians 15:51-53, TLB)

## **FIGHTING DEATH**

There were struggles in each of the movies. Harry had to resist being defeated by Voldemort. He refused to join forces with Voldemort even when his life was threatened.

In the first movie, when he was attacked by professor Quirrell, Harry grabbed Quirrell's hand. Harry's grip caused Quirrell's hand to burn up. When Quirrell attacked again, Harry grabbed the face of Quirrell. His grip caused Quirrell's face to crumble up. Quirrell turned to dust and Voldemort was defeated.

In our world, many of the problems against us are too great for us to defeat on our own. God wants us to trust in him as we fight our battles. The

power of God will enable us to be saved if we trust in him. We should obey his commands and do our duty. Jesus said “I am the light of the world – he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Jesus fought death and raised people from death. One man named Lazarus was dead for four days before Jesus arrived. Jesus said, “I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again.’ Then he shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ And Lazarus came-bound up in the gravecloth, his face muffled in a head swath. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go!’” (John 11:25-44)

We should ask people for help if we need it. Jesus is the strongest name even when we cannot see him. Our job is to remember to ask him for help by prayer.

“Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

## **DEFEATING DEATH**

Defeating death took more than magic spells and intelligence. Hermione listed some of the deeper powers when Harry had to go on alone to the final challenge.

Hermione: “You’ll be ok, Harry. You’re a great wizard. You really are.”

Harry: “Not as good as you.”

Hermione: “Heh. Me? Books and cleverness. There are more important things. Friendship and bravery.”

After the defeat of Quirrell, Dumbledore explained why Harry could defeat Quirrell.

Dumbledore: “Do you know why professor Quirrell couldn’t bear to have you touch him?”

Harry: (shakes his head “No”)

Dumbledore: “It was because of your mother. She sacrificed herself for you and that kind of act leaves a mark. This kind of mark cannot be seen. It lives in your very skin.”

Harry: “What is it?”

Dumbledore: “Love, Harry. Love.”

In the other Harry Potter movies it was the emotional energy of love that enabled Harry to defeat his enemies in his final battles with them.

God’s love is the strength that we need to live every day. God’s love gives life to the world. Without it, the sun would stop shining and we would stop breathing instantly.

God planned to save us from our sins so he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross and to suffer punishment for our sins. This love defeated death. Jesus came back to life again. He has the power to give eternal life to us too.

The greatest defeat of death will be when Jesus comes again and raises his believers who have died. He will start his eternal kingdom where death will never occur again. “When this happens, then at last this Scripture will come true - ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ O death, where then is your victory? Where then your sting? For sin-the sting that causes death-will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge. How we thank God for all of this! It is he who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57, The Living Bible)

The defeat of death will be crowned with eternal life. This life will be all that we can hope for. There will not be any more disease, pain or tears. “Our earthly bodies which die and decay are different from the bodies we shall have when we come back to life again, for they will never die. The bodies we have now embarrass us for they become sick and die; but they will be full of glory when we come back to life again. Yes, they are weak, dying bodies now, but when we live again they will be full of strength. They are just human bodies at death, but when they come back to life they will be superhuman bodies. For just as there are natural, human bodies, there are also supernatural, spiritual bodies” (2 Corinthians 15:42-44, The Living Bible).

In eternity, we will be able to enjoy God and his creation perfectly. We will be able to eat, drink, run and even fly. We will be like the angels in all of their ability. We will have even more to enjoy than the angels since we will know how far Jesus will have brought us. From sinfulness into gloriousness.

## **WILL HARRY ESCAPE DEATH?**

Will Harry escape death? Will he use the weapon that can save him and his friends? Love is the only weapon that worked to defeat the death curse before. He must use this weapon again. However he needs more than the love of his mother to defeat Voldemort.

Even though his mother's love was strong, the love of his mother only barely prevented his death and didn't prevent her own death. Harry needs an infinite source of love. He needs a love that is strong enough to love him even though he is a sinner. He needs a love that can save him from punishment for his sins. To save the world from Voldemort, he needs a love that can pay for the sins of the whole world. He needs the love of Jesus.

You need the love of Jesus too. You need him to save you from your death and your punishment for your sin. The Bible says that whoever will call on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved. Why don't you ask him for his love...

“Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross for my sins. Please forgive my sins and give me eternal life. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.”

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