

Four Steps of Death

1 Sam. 20:3 "as my south liveth, there is but a step between me and death."

I. A SURE STEP

Heb. 9:27 "It is appointed unto men once to die..."
It is a Universal step; 1 out of 1 take it;
1Ki. 2:2 "I go the way of all the earth..."
Ecc. 9:5 "The living know that they shall die."

Unsure @ when, where, or how.
Like a thief, death calls unexpectedly.
The *final* earthly step.

II. A STEP OF SEPARATION

Death is a separation of the spirit from the body.

Gen. 2:7 Spiritual death is separation from God.
Eccl. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."
James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith w.o. works is dead also."
Gen. 35:18 "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin."

A parting step;
Farewell to friends
Farewell to all that is earthly

III. A SAD STEP

Gen. 23:2 "Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her."
John 11:31 "She goeth unto the grave to weep."
John 11:35 "Jesus wept" (see v.33 also)
Psalms 35:14 "... I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth *for his* mother."
(Psalms 35:14)

Sad and Solitary
Feels so alone
Friends and loved ones can't accompany us.
1 Ki. 2:1,2; 1 Sam. 20:3
It is : "I" not "we"; "me" not "us"

IV. A SWEET STEP

Phil. 1:23 "Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."
Rev. 14:13 "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord... they may rest from their labours."
Psa. 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Sweet & Precious because they are saints
Because now one can rest from ailments & troubles
Sweet & precious because one is going to be with the Lord.
It is the LAST step; the step through the door into our home.

Sweet for those prepared:

Amos 4:12 "Prepare to meet thy God."
Rev. 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commands that they may have right to the tree of life and..."
Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone that sayeth unto me Lord..."
James 1:22 "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Note words to song:
"Beyond the sunset's radiant glow."

