## The dictionary definition of suicide is: "A person who kills himself intentionally."

Only God knows a man or woman's heart, thus, it is a very weighty matter to attempt to determine if another person has intentionally planned their own death, having been made with a sound (*a right*) mind, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7. My advice here is to seek and inquire the council and comfort of God's Holy Spirit.

For example: Not everyone who jumps off a tall building commits suicide; When 911 happened, several people jumped off of the roof of the twin towers. I am sure that, those people did not come to work that day planning to jump off of the building to their death. What caused them to do so was the intense heat and the painful alternative of burning to death in a trapped building.

To make such a decision you need to be in your right mind. For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7. God gave us a sound mind, and I believe He expects us to make our decisions from out of that right mind. For there are outside forces that come against us that can alter the way that we think and reason. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness and spiritual wickedness in high *places*, Ephesians 6:12.

- 1). <u>God has given mankind, both believer and unbeliever free-will</u>, the ability to choose what we think upon and entertain. However, God did tell us to choose life, <u>Deuteronomy 30:19</u>.
- 2). <u>All of us, believer and non-believer are eternal spirits</u>. The natural (*life*) is first and then comes the spiritual (*life*), 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:46. The natural life leads into the spiritual life, and I see the spiritual life as being dependent on the completion of one's natural life being fulfilled.

With these two concepts in place, the final question to be answered is;

• How can we choose death in this natural lifetime, (*assuming we have a sound mind*), and yet claim eternal life in the spiritual realm to come?

Let me speak briefly to anyone who may be contemplating taking their own life. Know that suicide does not end or relieve the pain you may currently be experiencing, we are all eternal spiritual beings and upon death or suicide we do not just cease to exist. Read scripture verse Jeremiah 52:10-11, don't let suicide be your last memory of this life. Rather finish your course Acts 20:24, and fight the good fight of faith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:7.

