

**(TS)** John Donne's faith encouraged both negative and positive feelings about death.

**(CD)** In the poem Holy Sonnet 1 John Donne says, "Despair behind, and death before doth cast/Such terror, and my feeble flesh doth waste/By sin in it, which it t'wards hell doth weigh." **(COM 1)** In this part of the poem Donne is sharing that he knows that his flesh is wasting away and he is near death. The speaker shares a fear of death that is motivated by how he has led his life. The speaker feels "despair" because he knows that the sinful life he has led will send him to hell. **(COM 2)** In this poem we see how John Donne's faith gives him a negative perception of death. The belief that when we pass away we live in hell if we have lived a life of sin is an example of how John Donne's life may have been impacted by his faith. It is his religious beliefs that tell him that sin is something that will lead to an afterlife spent in hell. **(COM 3)** People who do not have faith may still fear death. But death for the non-believer is not something to be feared because of what may happen after we die, the non-believer does not believe in heaven or hell. The non-believer fears death because it is the end of life. Donne's convictions were influenced by his faith and death was something to be feared because of what awaits the sinner. **(PT)** However, in Sonnet 10 John Donne's faith gives him a positive perception of death. **(CD)** In this sonnet he discusses death and says, "Death be not proud, though some have called thee/Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so...One short sleep past, we wake eternally, /And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die." **(COM 1)** In this part of the poem Donne is saying that he is not afraid of death. He thought death was a big thing but now knows it is something that happens to everyone and it is not something to fear. He in fact mocks death claiming that is just a "short sleep" and that people who die actually "wake eternally," or go to heaven. **(COM 2)** In this poem Donne's faith gives Donne a positive perception of death. He knows he will go to heaven after he dies

for living a good life because his faith tells him that people who have not sinned need not fear death. His faith tells him that we in fact have the power over death because if a person has faith, they share the belief with Donne that heaven awaits. **(COM 3)** Again, this is a belief that only the true believer can hold. People without faith do not have a belief in heaven and will only fear death. The non-believer can never see death as a positive thing because they do not see eternity in heaven as an option after death. If Donne did not have faith he might see death as just the end of life. He wouldn't have a belief in heaven. He has this because he has faith. **(TRANS)** There are other areas of Donne's life impacted by his faith.