

## WHEN THE LAST BREATH LEAVES



WHEN THE LAST BREATH LEAVES. What happens next? Though I have been with a number of folks nearing death over the years, I personally have witnessed just one lady taking her last breath.

She had been breathing very, very slowly, shallow little inhales and exhales, then finally, like a whisper, her last breath. The attending nurse checked her pulse, waited a minute, checked it again, then turned to us and said, “She’s gone.”

Gone where?

Some believe NOTHING happens. The inner person is extinguished. Like a candle blown out, only the smoke is left. It wafts upward for a minute, then it too disappears.

These folks have contented themselves to finding satisfaction ONLY in this life. They acknowledge they are only elements of calcium, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and phosphorus, that somehow by a long evolutionary process have managed to gather to walk and talk.

As consistent atheists, they choose to believe their inner self of consciousness, thoughts, feelings are just chemical reactions and the firing of electrons.

Others believe our soul continues after the body dies. We are then inexorably drawn to a bright and glorious presence. “All is well” for EVERYONE – heaven the destiny of all people, no matter who they were in this life.

While part of me would like to believe their point of view, it is only CONJECTURE based in large part of the testimonies of those who have had “near-death experiences.”

To throw water on any false hopes, I must report that a lady in my congregation (now deceased) told me in no uncertain terms that once, during surgery, she had died and found herself – in hell!

When she came back to life, she then gave herself to God. I would have too.

These “near-death” experiences are real, in my opinion. But our tendency to live in denial about mortality and to avoid any thought of final judgment or hell will of course result in selectively speaking about and listening to only the “good” near-death stories.

My suspicion is there are just as many frightening stories out there too – but who wants to hear about those?

**THERE IS ONLY ONE EXPERIENCE OF COMING BACK FROM DEATH I WILL STAKE MY SOUL UPON.** That of Jesus Christ.

**PRIOR** to his death, he assured a grief-stricken friend that **HE** is the resurrection and the life – and that whoever places their faith in him will never actually die but will have life with God forever (John 11).

**PRIOR** to his death, he promised his disciples he was going back to heaven to prepare a personally designed habitation for them and that **HE WOULD COME BACK** to bring them to himself (John 14).

**AFTER** his death, he met with his disciples numerous times to assure them that whoever trusts in him will continue to have life (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20).

**I'M TAKING HIS WORD FOR IT.**

When this body of mine quits, I expect to see Jesus and be with him forever. I am **SO** grateful he has come into my life now.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE?** This seven minute video will help you do just that, if you are interested.

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