

This is a hard discourse to write but I think it is relevant when discussing the “**soul**” of three parts the “**mind**”, the “**will**”, and the “**emotions**”. “**If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take**”. This is a prayer taught to children for a bedtime prayer, but yet it is befitting for adults also. It prescribes readily the fact that the “**soul**” goes immediately to **God** and the **Present Heaven** upon the fleshly death of our human **body**. When my Mom died in 2006, I had brought her home from a last visit to her family doctor and bodily carried her in my arms myself into the house to put her in her Hospice bed erected in the living room of her house. Mom said she wanted to die at home. A Hospice nurse immediately took over Mom’s personal care and with rotating shifts there was always a nurse on duty. These nurses were always so helpful to describe what Mom was experiencing and also told us she was comfortable and not in pain. On the day Mom died the nurse described Mom’s speech as cognizant and not delirious as well as the awareness that Mom passed over to the other side several times before her heart stopped and she died with family all around her. Mom was the Matriarch of our large family, providing an abundance of love but even chastisement when any of us needed it. She passed the legacy to me to be the Patriarch of the family until I needed to pass the family legacy to the next sibling. The reason I elaborate on this scene in Mom’s last days and hours, is because I want to place a vivid picture in each of you as to how the Lord interfaces with each of us who face the death of a loved one and yet go on living until our own life, destiny, and end-of life is fulfilled.

In the attachment “**Mom’s Last Words**” is a written record kept by me and Mom’s oldest grandchild, Tina, of Mom’s requests or statements when awake as well as her verbal descriptions when she passed to unconsciousness from whence, she never woke up. She did speak clearly when in a trance or unconscious state. This is contrary to reading secular descriptions of the process just before the end of life because I truly knew that Jesus was present and guiding her through the process of coming to be with Him in heaven. Tina probably knew Mom best in those months and years before Mom died as they were very close from Tina’s childhood to Mom’s last days. Sandra, Mom’s oldest daughter and Linda, my wife, rotated 24/7 care in the last weeks and days. Mom told us specifically on the day she died “This is the day” and “I cannot stay here”. At one point she said, “I want the room by myself so I can go over all my memories”. We put in place soft music from her CD album of Elvis Presley’s gospel music to include her favorite song “Amazing Grace”. In her passing to the other side at least two times, she made comments as “I feel like I am up in the sky, it’s beautiful, flying by myself”; “amazing there is Buster (Dale, a son-in law’s dog), dogs are in heaven”; “I am sitting on a hill and everything is so beautiful like Vanderbilt’s place and beautiful homes”; “way off in heaven, that’s where I was, I saw dad (her husband who previously died), grandma (probably hers) how wonderful that was, and Kevin (my son who died in a truck accident), “oh its gorgeous, I can see everything, truly marvelous”; “you are the jewels (as she opened her arms wide)”; “all these people where are they coming from”; and many more. When Mom died a cold wind passed across the back of my and Linda’s neck, to us meaning Mom’s **spirit** was saying “**goodbye**”.

The information above was never provided to anyone else until this publication. Biblical verses describe and Christian believers understand the passing from life to death, so possibly this overview will provide a prelude to future posts of the “**emotion**” component of the “**soul**” and then some incites of our eternal lives after death into the **Present Heaven or Present Hell, the 1000-year Millennium, to then the New Heaven on the New Earth**.

These replications of “Mom’s Last Words” are not necessarily in chronological order as Tina and I passed between ourselves the recording, for remembrance, of Mom’s last words. Mom had a murmur in the left

ventricle of her heart which she refused to have corrected with surgery. It got worse with her age until her heart stopped, just naturally from age and wear and tear. She mowed her own grass on a riding lawn mower until about 86 years old and died at the age of 89. I am most like my Mom and have the same heart murmur in my left ventricle and apparently my son, Lee, has the same murmur. My prayer is to be able to die in my sleep or with family present as like Mom had when she died. Her last words:

- Remember love, peace, and joy.
- Remember to confide in each other.
- Linda to have Myrt's ring, Shirley to have old ring, Sharon the reed bedroom suit, Gary her bedroom suit (she did not leave a written list).
- Each child is to get what they want including from the workshop.
- Tell Fred to cut down on beer and smoking.
- Go through the papers carefully.
- No matter what (inaudible).
- Tell Grandpap I love him (he died before her).
- I have the most beautiful family ever.
- So happy you are my family.
- Have you ever seen anything like it –all of them.
- I cannot believe all the beautiful girls.
- Angie, are you tired? Believe about life and kids and what they mean to you.
- I got it – it is strawberry.
- Go to Albertsons to get the best roast beef.
- Back of my mind you look the same all of the faces.
- What I want is to walk in the room and have my cantaloupe and my chair.
- Want carrots and green beans.
- I can see Eryn – she is beautiful in a nurses uniform.
- We are going to have roast beef, mash potatoes, (inaudible).
- Are you tired? They built those homes with no cement mixer.
- Are you OK? – it has to be OK.
- If I do not raise my eye, I do not see.
- Do you feel like ice is floating all around?
- She is gorgeous and beautiful.
- The moon is shining on the house.
- I will never forget you.
- Moving objects all around.
- Not as comfortable coming down here.
- I dream of seeing your faces.
- The flowerpots out front and back – so beautiful.
- Do you have to have coats and sweaters up there?
- You all are all standing around here – the hamburgers are on.
- You all come maybe tomorrow.

- I wish you the best.
- It is a beautiful home.
- It is a safer place.
- I love you all and Dale you have been wonders to me.
- He has been right down my alley. That pose looks just like Dad (slapped her hand) just like Dad.
- There's Eryn – so precious and always there.
- Dad – Hey, Hey you are sleepy.
- Somebody's grandson is going to be glad to see us all – Kevin.
- You have been a wonderful son (Gary).
- I wonder why everybody in the world eats green beans.
- I can picture them all over the yard – my home over the hill So beautiful setting on a hill.
- Brit has been a wonderful son – he has been good to me.
- Sandra is like me.
- Get the rye bread.
- Sharon wants alarm clocks.
- Hi to baby Kalen ---- Bye, bye (waving).
- How many hours did you spend putting up?
- The curtain in this room --- A busy day.
- You have been a naughty girl --- you were always sneaking out.
- Seems like somebody is missing, could it be Britt? Grandmother says, "I do not know".
- I feel like I am up in the sky, it is beautiful, flying by myself.
- Amazing there is Buster (Dale, a son-in law's dog), dogs are in heaven.
- I am sitting on a hill, and everything is so beautiful like Vanderbilt's place and beautiful homes.
- Way off in heaven, that is where I was, I saw Dad, grandma (probably hers) how wonderful that was, and Kevin.
- Oh, it is gorgeous, I can see everything, truly marvelous.
- You are the jewels (as she opened her arms wide).
- All these people where are they coming from?

These comments may not mean anything outside of our family, but they display Mom's reaction to passing over to the other side and specifically while in the last hour of transition from life to death. In her conscious state you can see where her mind and final thoughts were. She was being prepared by the Lord by saying "goodbye" and being prepared for her **soul** entering into eternal life. In the very last minutes of Mom's life, she would not let go – the Hospice nurse told me to take her hand and tell her that I would see that everything would be taken care of per her instructions. Then she peacefully passed on to be with Jesus. I know my Mom would not object to my sharing her words with you. She was a friend to everyone, and I often said there never was a person that she could not engage in conversation, and I exaggerated by adding even to a "doorpost". I can only hope and pray that there is someone reading this that will find peace in facing their end of life by knowing there is an eternal life and that we will again see people we know and love in the **Present Heaven** and on into **Eternity** in our glorified bodies. Thank you, MOM, for always being there for us and for all the **LOVE** you showed us.