



## Death, Dying and Heaven

Billy Graham said it is not the death that frightens him, but the dying. Many wish they could just die in their sleep. We wonder how much we might suffer or the suffering of our loved one. This concern has motivated the growth of Hospice to provide palliative care to alleviate the suffering of the dying. Some wonder about the after life and heaven. It is real? Will I go there?

Christians believe in an after life. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus told his disciple during his last meal before his death, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you might be also." (John 14) Some people have reported on near death experiences and their glimpse of heaven. They talk about a great white light, the loving presence, speaking to relatives and Jesus, being sent back, etc. They talk about life separate from the human body. We spend a lot of attention on feeding the body that will die. How do we feed our soul that will never die? What are your thoughts about heaven?

<b>What feelings does death and dying bring out in you?</b>	<b>Is heaven a hope, a mystery, a destination for you?</b>	<b>How can your group pray for you?</b>

There is an old hymn that says, "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my home." Some say we are really spiritual beings having a human experience. "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires...I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Rom 8:5-6) How is it for you.