

If you are on life support and have no brain activity is your soul here or with the Lord?

The Bible says, “It is appointed for men to die *once*, but after this the judgment” (He 9:27, emphasis mine). Natural death ends one’s earthly life (Eccl. 9:10). It separates one’s soul from his body (2 Co 5:1).¹ Death is described as a departure from this world into the next (Phil 1:23). Men were created to live eternally *somewhere*—in a body fit for heaven or in a body fit for hell (Matt. 25:46).

All will be raised after physical death (Ac 24:15)²—some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt (Da 12:2). Man’s final state is determined by his faith or unbelief (John 3:36; 2 Thess. 1:6–10).

While man is outwardly physical (2 Cor. 4:16); he is inwardly spiritual (Rom. 7:22) made in God’s image (Ge 9:6).

It would take a miracle for one to die and then return to life again.³

Medical professionals have differing ideas about death based on one’s brain activity. There is no *mostly dead*—there is *living* and there is *dead* according to scripture (Phil 1:23). Hospitals have been known to starve individuals to death⁴; so, one would be wise to plan ahead for end of life care by creating a living will. Such decisions should be placed in the hands of God-fearing individuals who value life (Eccl 10:2, Jn 10:10).

When an individual would naturally die without medical assistance, it is certainly ok to let him die. Starvation; however, is another matter altogether. The Bible says: “Even the jackals present their breasts to nurse their young; But the daughter of my people is cruel (La 4:3).” Offering food and water for one in need of basic care is reasonable.

God is the giver of life. He alone can rightfully take life (Ac 17:28, 29). Sometimes God allows suffering⁵ for his own reasons.

¹ Removal from this “tent” as the apostle Paul put it.

² Death of saints described: sleep in Jesus (1 Thess. 4:14), blessed (Rev. 14:13), a gain (Phil. 1:21), peace (Is. 57:1, 2), crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index (p. 169). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers. Contrast with death of the wicked: result of sin (Rom. 5:12), often punishment (Ex. 23:25–29; Is. 65:11, 12), unpleasant for God (Ezek. 33:11), without hope (1 Thess. 4:13; Rev. 20:10, 14, 15). Ibid, p. 169.

³ E.g. Widow’s son raised from dead (1 Kin. 17:17–23), Shunammite’s child raised from dead (2 Kin. 4:19–37), Preservation [or possibly even the death of] Jonah in stomach of fish three days (Jon. 2:1–10), Widow’s son raised from dead [Nain] (Luke 7:11–17), Raised Jairus’ daughter [Capernaum] (Matt. 9:24–26; Mark 5:23; Luke 8:41), Lazarus raised from dead [Bethany] (John 11:38–44), Resurrection of Christ (Luke 24:6; John 10:18). Those associated with Peter: Dorcas restored to life (Acts 9:40). Those associated with Paul: Eutychus restored to life (Acts 20:10). Ibid, p. 423.

⁴ E.g. Terri Schiavo from Pinellas Park, Florida by Pinellas Park Hospice or Dylan Walborn from Broomfield, Colorado by Children’s Hospital.

⁵ Suffering for Christ: necessary in Christian living (1 Cor. 12:26; Phil. 1:29), blessed privilege (Acts 5:41), never in vain (Gal. 3:4), after Christ’s example (Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:20, 21), of short duration (1 Pet. 5:10), not comparable to heaven’s glory (Rom. 8:18; 1 Pet. 4:13). Ibid, p. 597.