

*I was wondering if human spirits can remain on the earth after death.*

*When I was younger my mom told me that God said one man was trapped in the hospital because his mom refused to let him go. Can death be delayed?*

It is forbidden to attempt to communicate with the dead (Lev 19:31). Demons, if they wished to appear to men, could make themselves appear to be beautiful (2 Co 11:13-14).

John MacArthur wrote:

Since the Prince of Darkness (cf. Luke 22:53; Acts 26:18; Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:13) masquerades as an angel of light—that is, deceptively, disguised as a messenger of truth—it is not surprising that his emissaries do as well.<sup>1</sup>

The apostle John reminded believers: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God (1 Jn 4).” Departed human beings do not remain on earth in a disembodied state.

The apostle Paul said: absent from the body present with the Lord—or not (2 Co 5:8). Paul said that it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment (He 9:27). Had one died in a right relationship with the Lord, he is where Jesus is at this time. Deceased individuals are unable to communicate with the living (Lk 16:26).

God may indeed delay one’s natural death if he chooses to do so (Mt 9:26).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 1781). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. The Lord gave Hezekiah fifteen more years to live (2 Ki 20:6).