

My last will and testament

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There is a possibility that this might be my last night on earth. As I write this article, I realize that I might not wake up after my surgery tomorrow. Mortality is a humbling thought.

I'm not afraid of death. A number of years ago I came to the understanding that for me, there are a lot of things worse than death. I've seen too many times when exotic means were used to keep a body functioning when the spirit had already left the building. It's a personal decision of hope that some choose and I honor that. It is not, however, something I would choose for myself. I see death as one of the ultimate healings that some of us will receive. When my time comes, I want to go.

Having said that, I realize that I'm not yet ready to go. Even though the doctor mentioned death as a possibility, I was doing okay until I was asked repeatedly at the hospital if I had a living will or wanted to be an organ donor. Then I had my blood typed in case I needed a transfusion. I know all of this is precautionary, but it got me thinking. What if I didn't survive the surgery?

I did a quick self exam. My relationship with my Maker is good, but I am going to do a little bit of final connection before I go under – just to make sure. Kathy (my wife) and I are solid, but I'm afraid that I will leave a lot of things for her to clean up in my passing. There is no way I have the time to clean out my office desk or finish many of the other little odds and ends that I usually take care of. Sorry dear.

And there are the personal things. In my time left, what do I still want to accomplish? Are there things I would like to say to those special people in my life? I will make sure I tell my wife that I love her at least one more time. Those of you who are weight challenged like me will understand that I have even been thinking about what I would like to eat as my "last meal"!

Professionally, I want to make sure that the ministries at the church are covered. I am not naive enough to think that I am indispensable. I know God's ministry will continue with or without me – but the Lord knows that I would rather it be with me at this point.

But life is terminal, and so I leave these thoughts as part of my last will and testament. To my God, I give my life, my soul, my all. To my wife I leave my everlasting love and memories that God has blessed us with. I also leave in your care the effects of my estate. I'm sorry for the piles of junk that I have left for you to sort through, but trust in the strength of our God and the love we shared and the friends we have to help you through it.

To my family and friends I leave my heartfelt thanks for all of your support and love in good times and bad. Words can not adequately express the deep feelings I harbor. To my church family I leave my love and the shared vision that God has given us for His ministry in our church and community. May you continue to love, support, and encourage one another in our faith and fellowship. And for all my readers, community, family and friends, I leave thoughts of a great God who meets us and blesses us in our everyday life. I share with you my favorite benediction: "May God go before you to defend you, come behind you to protect you, and walk alongside of you to befriend you. May He dwell underneath you to uplift you, rest above you to bless you, and dwell within you to give you peace, now and forever more." Amen.

Addendum: I had scheduled this article to go out if I went up, but by God's grace I survived the operation to submit it personally. Consideration that I might not live past tomorrow has challenged me to rethink how I'm going to live today. I will definitely make sure I connect intimately with God on a daily basis. Every day I will not only tell my wife I love her, I will show her. I will look for opportunities to share with friends and strangers appreciation and the love of our Lord. And with God's strength. I will start working on cleaning out my desk and other areas of my life which need straightening up. Amen and Amen.