

# Monster of Life–death

*I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me will live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in Me will never die. (John 11:25-26)*

We've already explored the Monster of Life in the forms of disconnection, disease, and delusion.

Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, were close friends of Jesus. *"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, but oddly, when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two more days."* By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had died. Martha met Jesus with these words: *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."* The above words are Jesus' response.



How shall we understand these words about life and death that seem self-contradictory? *The Passion of the Christ*, a 2004 epic drama, is the highest grossing R-rated film in America history. In his review, movie critic Roger Ebert wrote, *"It is clear that Mel Gibson wanted to make graphic the price that Jesus paid (as Christians believe) when He died for our sins."* Obviously, **the price** was **physical**. Physically, death is the beginning of the end: *"From dust you have come and to dust you shall return"* (Genesis 3:19). It involves the termination of the **physical**. The vital signs (**BODY** temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate and blood pressure) *"go south"*!

However, the **physical**, though most *graphic*, is not most *fundamental*. Listen to Jesus' words: *"At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?'"* The core of death is **spiritual–spiritual**

**separation from God.** It is **HELL!** Of this the Apostles' Creed speaks: "Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; **He descended to hell.**"

Alzheimer's is a horrifying disease! Debra Dean captures the distressing experience: "She is leaving him, not all at once, which would be painful enough, but in a wrenching **succession of separations.** One moment she is here, and then she is gone again, and each journey takes her a little farther from his reach." Death is spiritual Alzheimer's—separation of the human spirit from the Creator.

Now, Jesus' words about life and death are crystal clear!

Those who **believe in Me** will **live**, even though **they die physically;**  
and those who **live and believe in Me** will **never die spiritually.**

Here's the most important words: "Those who believe in Me will live." "During the Gemini 4 mission on June 3, 1965, Ed White became the first American to conduct a spacewalk. He floated outside the capsule **attached by an umbilical cord tether** providing oxygen and communications from the spacecraft" (NASA). "Jesus said to the fishermen, 'Come, **follow ME!**'" (Matthew 4:19). Believing is nothing other than attaching to Jesus, The Life, by the tether of faith. George Müller, a man of great faith, cared for 10,024 orphans in his life. He once said, "I long for a warm **personal attachment** to Him."



"People tethered to God by faith can let themselves go because they know they will get themselves back" (Cornelius

Plantings). Are you tethered to Jesus? It's a life and death matter!