

What will you leave behind?

Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, was reading the newspaper one morning when, to his shock, he turned the page and discovered his obituary inside. It turns out that his brother had died, and the newspaper had published Alfred's obituary by mistake. The obituary read, "The merchant of death is dead". It went on to say the following:

"Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday."

Needless to say, Nobel was taken aback by the way in which the world was going to remember him after his death.

It's believed that it was due to this shock that Nobel decided to set aside the bulk of his estate in order to establish the Nobel Foundation, which annually bestows international awards in recognition of cultural and scientific advances. Today, Nobel is not remembered as the merchant of death, but as the creator of the Nobel Prizes, and, consequently, as a great humanitarian. Having read his obituary while he was still alive gave him the opportunity to change his legacy.

Although it sounds a bit morbid, writing your own obituary¹ or eulogy² is an excellent wake-up call that can challenge you to live your life the way you want to be remembered.

Section A: If you were to die now ...

Every life has an ending. Imagine your funeral ... your body is lying lifeless in a coffin while your family, friends and colleagues are seated around, talking about you and contemplating what life will be like without you. Take your time to visualize the scene then respond to the following questions.

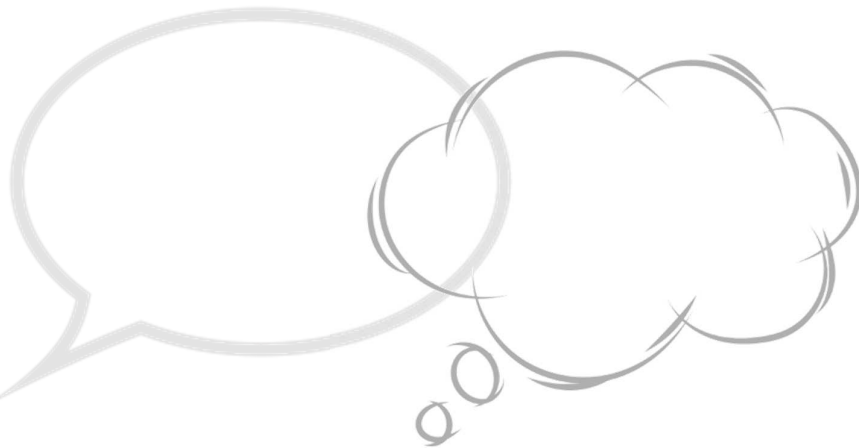
1. Who will attend your funeral? Of these, who will really miss you because you meant something special to them?

2. What would people SAY or THINK about you?

a. Family:

b. Friends:

c. Colleagues:



¹ A notice of a death (usually in a newspaper) typically including a brief biography of the deceased person

² A speech or piece of writing that praises someone who had just died

3. How will you be remembered? What is most memorable about you?

4. You did not die now AND **your life goes on as it is now** (on the same path) ...

a. What would you achieve?

b. Will your answers to Qs 1-3 be any different? Explain



Section B: An alternative ending ...

5. Life is about making an impact, not making an income.

*Consider your spiritual gift(s), strength(s) and passion(s) as you answer the questions below
Also consider Mark 8:35; 1 John 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:8 and Acts 20:24*

a. Ask, “What shall I do, LORD?” (see Acts 22:10)

b. Take a look around ... what would be a need that God desires for you to meet?

c. What would be your unique contribution to God’s kingdom – one that only you could make?

6. Now bring your desired eulogy to life ... based on your answers above, write one or two paragraphs that you would love someone to say about you at your wake or funeral

In Loving Memory Of

Note: The above eulogy may include your God-given mission to meet a specific need.

7. What are some changes you need to make so that you can realize your desired eulogy and live a life of no regrets?

Things you will START to do

Things you will STOP doing

8. Choose ONE CHANGE above and turn it into a doable goal (using 5Ws and 1H)

- What (specifically do you want to achieve)? Visualize it!

- Why (do you want to reach this goal)?

- When?

- Where?

- (with) Whom?

- How (do you intend to reach this goal)?
What are possible alternative ways of achieving the same goal?

Section C: Summary reflection

Draw a diagram showing how the four foundational issues (identity, intimacy, integrity and impact) are related to one another