Where a desolate sense of meaninglessness is encountered by the person at the end of life, one finds the essence of ‘spiritual pain.’
Some day, we will all die, Snoopy!

True, but on all the other days, we will not.
“Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.”

- World Health Organization
National Quality Forum Domains

1. Structures and processes of care
2. Physical aspects of care
3. Psychological and psychiatric aspects of care
4. Social aspects of care
5. Spiritual, religious, and existential aspects of care
6. Cultural aspects of care
7. Care of the imminently dying patient
8. Ethical and legal aspects of care.

Psychological Anxiety and Depression

Social Social roles

Spiritual Religious practices

How are these distinct and similar?

Meaning
Purpose
Connection
Peace
Hope
Consensus Definition of Spirituality in Palliative Care

The aspect of humanity that refers to the way individuals seek and express meaning and purpose and the way they experience their connectedness to the moment, to self, to others, to nature and to the significant or sacred

- U.S. Consensus Conference

I WANT TO KNOW THE MEANING OF LIFE

HAVE YOU TRIED GOOGLING IT?
The Role of Spirituality

Integral to peoples lives

Patients and families in acute health care situations have spiritual and religious needs

Beliefs and practices are central to coping

Negative coping associated with poorer outcomes

Satisfaction and QOL are higher when spiritual care attended

Beliefs influences decision-making and treatment choices