



## Technology vs. Reality

**Last year there was a Time magazine cover story asking, “Can Google Solve Death?” To me that conjured up the ultimate app: “Press here. Don’t die.”**

Such hyperbole speaks to the excessive faith that some of us have defaulted to the false promise of technology. The entire thrust has been spurred on by Ray Kurzweil and his Singularity movement which extrapolates from the gains in life expectancies which we have seen in the last 50 years to project future lifetimes of over 150, 250 and beyond.

If you believe that sort of bluster I have a bridge that I would like to sell you.

But the Immoralists crowd continues to claim advocates to its creed driven mostly by the commercial hope that their product will provide glistening castles of Disney proportion.

It takes me back to Ponce de Leon who searched for the fountain of youth. I believe he died at the point of an Indian arrow, unfulfilled. He is certainly

not alone in his search for a long, long, long, long life—it goes on today.

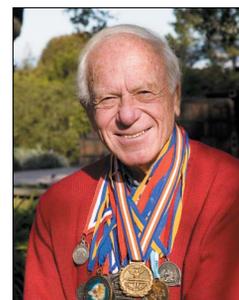
To me it is a same time type of search that prompts a friend to suggest that such hype resembles that of one eager to change the color of the sky from blue to green. Why not? I like green, too.

**Unfortunately** there are basic laws in effect such as thermodynamics. Everything in the universe ages. Everything wears out. Entropy rules.

So whenever a magazine or TV commercial attempts to solicit you to order a potion that guarantees another 20 more years, turn away. I was consulted recently by Forbes magazine that asked my opinion about whether the new step counters were helping humanity.

My response was simply that they are simple tools to record physical activity. They may be helpful if they are not confined to the bedside drawer.

Sure, we will not turn our back on what technology has delivered to us.



Walter M. Bortz, II, MD

We are way ahead of the Bushmen but the Second Law of Thermodynamics places restrictions on our dreams and reality.

Things will always fall down instead of up regardless of what the false prophets may proclaim.

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*Dr. Walter M. Bortz, II is one of America's most distinguished scientific experts on healthy aging and longevity. He spent his entire career at Stanford University where he holds the position of Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine. An active marathoner, he has written seven books including "Dare to Be 100" and "Next Medicine." To learn more, visit [walterbortz.com](http://walterbortz.com) or email: [DRBortz@aol.com](mailto:DRBortz@aol.com).*