



Is There Life After Death? Documented Near Death Experiences By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. Ever wonder what will happen when we die? - Many people think that there is no afterlife, that when we die we just cease to exist. Yet, there are thousands of documented near death experiences (NDEs), of **people who are clinically dead, they had no brainwaves nor heartbeat, and they leave their body.** They are not irreversibly dead, they do come back to life, usually with help from a medical team. Later when interviewed, they describe their experiences. This is fascinating! Searching AI for “documented near-death experiences” (NDEs) produced this information:

2. Notable accounts and research: These include systematic analysis by researchers.

3. NDEs often have a profound and lasting impact: These impact the experiencer's outlook on life and spirituality regardless if it is a positive or negative Near Death Experience.

4. NDEs include: **a. Out-of-body experiences** - These people experienced leaving their body, yet were still aware of their surroundings. Many experienced a sensation of floating above their physical body and observing the surroundings from an elevated perspective, even seeing the ER staff trying to resuscitate them. When they returned to their body, they reported they had seen things in the environment that they could not have seen if they had remained in their body. **Obviously, after dying, they did not cease to exist!**

b. Heightened senses: Many reported their consciousness and senses were clearer and more rapid than they are in everyday life. There is even a study of 21 people who were blind, but during their NDEs, they reported they could see people trying to resuscitate them and other things in the environment. When they reentered their body, they were blind again.

c. Usually, movement toward a bright light: As they approached a bright light, their experiences changed either to one of peace and love or to one of confusion, fear, and dread.

5. Comparing NDEs to biblical teachings - Lee Strobel, who once was an investigative reporter said, “I was a skeptic about near-death experiences until I found out we have 900 scholarly articles that have been written and published in scientific and medical journals over the last 40 years.” He called it a “very well-researched area.” Lee studied many NDE's, then wrote the book, *The Case for Heaven*, which has been made into a documentary. He also stated that NDEs correspond to Biblical teachings in numerous ways. (1) Let's look at a few common components. (1) “Lee Strobel Investigates Near Death Experiences in 'The Case for Heaven' Film,” By Jennie Ortega Law, Christian Post Reporter, Saturday April 2, 2022).

6. Common Elements in NDEs of Positive Experiences - “Heaven”

a. Profound Beauty and Light: Many people describe entering a place of overwhelming beauty, where everything glows with light and feels intensely peaceful and loving. They had descriptions of lush landscapes, vibrant colors, and radiant light that evoke a sense of harmony and peace. - *The Bible describes some of heaven's beauty (Revelation 21-22).*

b. Encounters with Spiritual Beings and Loved Ones: Some individuals encountered beings of light. Often described as a brilliant, comforting, and loving presence, sometimes identified as a religious figure, God, Jesus, or an angel. *Some were told by Jesus it was not their time yet and were sent back.* - *People in the Bible who also saw heaven said that: God's “brightness was like the light” (Habakkuk 3:4). They saw shining angels (Revelation 10:1). One saw Jesus in heaven (Acts 7:55).* A frequent experience is meeting deceased family members or friends who offer comfort and guidance, who appear healthy and at peace. - *King David implies that when he dies, he will go see his baby son who had just died (2 Samuel 12:23).*

c. Feelings of Love, Joy, and Peace: Often they experienced a profound sense of unconditional love, tranquility, joy, and euphoria, often accompanied by the loss of the fear of death. - *In heaven there are no tears, death, mourning, sorrow, nor pain (Revelation 21:4). In God's “presence is fullness of joy, and ... pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). “God is love” (1 John 4:8). God is a god of “hope, peace (Romans 15:13), and comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3).*

d. Life Review: Some experienced their entire life flashing before their eyes. ... a detailed, panoramic review of their life, seeing and feeling the impact of their actions on others. - *God is showing some of them that if they keep living the lifestyle they are living now, they will or will not go to heaven when they die. In the Bible, people who've seen heaven wrote of their experiences to share with others (Isaiah 6:1-8; Ezekiel 1; Daniel 7:9-10).*

7. What is God's attitude about people going to hell? - Before looking at the experiences of people who see hell, let's look at how God feels about this. - God “is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish (*die and go to hell*), but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). “For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,' says the Lord



God. ‘Therefore turn and live!’” (Ezekiel 18:32). “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him (*Jesus*) shall not perish (*die and go to hell*) but have eternal life (*in heaven*)” (John 3:16).

8. Elements in NDEs of Disturbing Experiences - “Hell” - You will notice experiences vary while seeing “hell.” That is because there are various punishments there, depending on one’s sins (Hebrews 10:29; Matthew 23:14). God is a righteous judge and will judge according to one’s works (Revelation 20:12-13) and words (Matthew 12:36-37), which He has had recorded in books (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 20:12). (All who are not saved will go to hell, to be explained later.)

a. Darkness and Fear: Some individuals describe entering dark voids filled with nothingness, a feeling that can be intensely distressing, or feeling extreme fear associated with the afterlife. - “... cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 22:13).

b. Challenging Encounters with Evil Forces: Some were experiencing threatening or demonic creatures and intense negative energy, a “reckoning” that is frightening. Some describe seeing featureless faces, evil entities mocking them, experiencing emotional unrest, and feeling confusion or despair. - “... your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). *The fallen angels/demons are in hell (Matthew 25:41) and torment people (Acts 5:16), that is their nature.*

c. Feelings of Loneliness: Some describe a miserable, lonely, and depressing environment that feels **intensely hot or cold**. - “Depart from Me,...into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). “Loved one and friend, You (God) have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness” (Psalm 88:18).

d. Sense of Being Trapped and Accountable: Some experienced feelings of being tricked into ultimate destruction or facing finality of death. - “Satan, who deceives (tricks) the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). - Some were forced to confront their wrong-doings and feel a powerful sense of guilt. - “(M)y sin is ever before me” (Psalm 51:3).

9. What is the purpose of NDEs? - God is so merciful! Some Near Death Experiences are His wake-up calls. NDEs can let individuals know where they will be going when they die, so they can repent, and make necessary changes in their lives. Reading about their experiences can be God’s wake-up call for us too. He “desires all men to be saved (*from going to hell*) and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

10. What is the truth? - Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (*God*) except through Me” (John 14:6). The Bible says, “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23). “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Calling us His friends, Jesus says, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). To fulfill the demands of justice, Jesus willingly died, paying the death penalty for our sins. Only those who truly receive this loving Jesus as their Lord and Savior (Colossians 2:6) go to heaven.

11. If you want to receive Jesus as Your Lord and Savior, here is a suggested prayer: “Dear God, I repent from my sins and from trying to live my life my way. I am asking You to be my Lord. Forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me from all my sinful ways. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Jesus, I believe You died for my sins, then rose again to give me eternal life. I open my heart and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I will follow You for the rest of my life. AMEN!”

Name _____

Date _____

12. Now that you have received Jesus, He will start revealing Himself to you (John 14:21). But to steadily improve your relationship with God, spend time with Him. Start praying to Him. Read His book, the Bible (Psalm 119), where He reveals Himself more clearly. Daily, ask Him to become involved in your life and request His advice, direction, even correction. Obey Him when He reveals His will to you. Spend time with others who love God, go to a good church where you feel God’s presence, they preach the Bible, you can get baptized in water, and be filled with His Holy Spirit. Come visit us, we want to help you grow in your walk with Jesus.

NationTakers Ministries

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