

When my father died

Bible comfort on modern topics: Death, near death experiences, reincarnation, purgatory, cremation and death matters.

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Information notice board

- 1) About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life having grown up in church tradition, knowing about God but not knowing God. God however rescued me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017. Since then, he has given me a message, to go and preach the gospel as a preacher and an evangelist including to his servants bound up in traditions. You can read my full testimony [here](#):
- 2) About these series.** The Lord Jesus gave me a single word "Go". This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church in order to develop mountain moving faith. This message is one of those topics.

(Information notice board continued at the end).



Start



Grow



Mature

When my father died.

My father died on 15 June 2021. It is hard to forget the day or the season because strange things happened before he died.

- On Wed 14 April 2021, almost exactly 2 months before his death, I was praying. I heard the Lord tell me to write letters to some people. My dad was one of them. I was surprised about the Lord asking me to write to my dad, and I think I did express to him (Jesus) this surprise but well I did. 3 days after I wrote the letter, my mum took my dad to hospital. He was diagnosed with cancer not too long after.
- On 29th May 2021, I sent a message to my family. I was on my knees weeping and praying that none goes to hell. The sorrow the Lord placed on me was really heavy!
- On 5th June 2021, the Lord placed another heavy burden on my heart. It was so heavy, once again I shared a message with my family warning them about death and to flee from hell. I specifically wrote "the Spirit of the Lord is heavy on my heart, burdening me with sorrow for those who are not saved."
- On 14th June 2021 the night before he died, not too long before we went to sleep, I told my wife that the spirit of death was so heavy on me. I told her I felt someone was going to die the next day, but I didn't know who. I jokingly told her, "If someone dies, you should know I am a prophet." She replied: "yes, if someone dies, I will know you are!" Well, the Lord hid from me that it was my dad going.

Are there other people who experience this kind of thing where before someone dies the spirit of death appears and then all sorts of things happen? Who knows? I mean, is it coincidence that when Jesus gave me the 12 messages for this season, he asked me to cover death in October, which meant I will have known to some extent the pain of death and can share this with you? About my dad, I have one regret.

After the letter (in which I told him: “see you in heaven”), I spoke to him about 1 week before his death, when he seemed to be recovering. He looked good and we had a general chat. I had wanted to ask him about the letter, but I didn't. I wish I had pressed him about whether he had accepted Jesus, I wish! I can only have faith that somehow Jesus showed me grace and used that letter to get him to confess his sins. This is the only way what I said “see you in heaven” will come to pass.

What the bible shows us happens after we die

First about what makes up a person. We are made of 3 parts: body, soul and spirit (Hebrews 4: 12).

The bible says the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9: 5) and this confirms that when someone dies, their body is not aware of anything and so in this case, there is no consciousness. As we however comprise of 3 parts, the body returns to dust (hence knows nothing at death), while the spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12: 7).

The soul however remains alive but its location/destiny depends on how someone lived here on earth.

The bible in one of the few passages about death address what happens to the soul after someone dies when Jesus told this story:

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So, he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

This passage shows us several things:

1. **On death (Paradise and Hades).** As soon as we die, the souls of the righteous are taken to a place of comfort (presumably Paradise) where they join other righteous dead (like Abraham, like Moses, like Elijah). By comparison the ungodly soul is taken to a place of torment (called

Hades). This means a form of judgment of our deeds on earth takes place immediately on death.

Other bible passages to support this include:

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment (Hebrews 9: 27 (NLT).

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23: 42-43 (NIV).

But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. 2 Samuel 12: 23 (NKJV).

2. **Forever Separation/Purgatory/Praying for the dead.** Those in paradise cannot cross over to Hades and vice versa, as there is a chasm separating the two.

This means the concept of purgatory, cannot be correct as the passage shows one cannot cross, having been unrighteous (in hades) to become righteous (transferred to paradise), otherwise Father Abraham would have offered the rich man that option. The Catholic Church holds that "all who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified" undergo the process of purification which the Church calls purgatory, "so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven". This concept is based on the Apocrypha passage in 2 Maccabees 12: 46: *"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."*

3. **Reincarnation doesn't exist.**

In our modern world where religious tolerance is seen as "modern", we now increasingly encounter those who believe in reincarnation, typically Eastern religions. Like Christians, they believe the soul is immortal and the only thing that becomes perishable is the body. By contrast, they believe that upon death, the soul becomes transmigrated into a new infant (or animal) to live again. Even some scientists today say Reincarnation is feasible.

Dr Stevenson former Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and former chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, dedicated the majority of his career to finding evidence of reincarnation, until his death in 2007. claims to have found over 3,000 examples of reincarnation during his time which he shared with the scientific community.ⁱ

In the passage, we however see that the rich man told Father Abraham: *"Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him [Lazarus] warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'*

If there was re-incarnation, then this man would have had an opportunity to come back, and perhaps warn his brothers, but no such option was given to him by Father Abraham. This also shows neither do we typically get warnings from the dead to us to warn us about hell, we have the scriptures because if someone doesn't believe the bible, how can they believe the miracle of someone who was dead and raised? Most people who see such miracles still don't believe.

How about the passage of dead Samuel's spirit and Saul with the witch of Endor as recorded in 1 Samuel 28:7-20?

This is the only biblical account of someone being visited in such a manner by someone who was deceased. In this story, a witch or medium is visited by King Saul (even if the Israelites are forbidden from consulting mediums, necromancers, psychics and such (Deuteronomy 18: 11). The king asks her to conjure up the spirit of the prophet Samuel. Samuel indeed arises, tells Saul: "Why have you disturbed me by calling me back" (v15) and then accurately tells Saul: "the Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat." (V19).

This passage does however show that: A spiritual world beyond life exists in which the dead are "resting". This passage is likely an exceptional one where God specifically allowed the spirit of righteous Samuel to speak to Saul, even if summoned by a medium/necromancer. God is therefore sovereign even over death and the power of the enemy.

This passage also proves what Abraham told the rich man. 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" In this case, Saul even after receiving such prophesy, did not humble himself before God. There is no evidence of him going to repent or seek out a prophet/priest in repentance. Instead, he continued to go to the battle and indeed he died together with his sons. What's more, the ark of God was even captured and hence the Glory of God departed, Ichabod!

Related questions about death and similar matters

1. Do the departed/dead know what's going on with us here on earth?

Therefore, as to the dead knowing what's going on, the story of the rich man and Lazarus seems to indicate that the rich man in Hades had no means of accessing his family or even seeing what was going on with them.

As for the righteous dead, the bible doesn't also explicitly comment on this but there seems evidence that the righteous dead in particular know what's going on here, as they are after all alive and in some ways like the angels. For example:

- In the story of Samuel's spirit and Saul with the witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28:7-20) Samuel predicts accurately what will happen to Saul.
- In the transfiguration, when Moses and Elijah appear in splendour with Jesus they are talking about his pending departure, presumably in futuristic terms (Luke 9: 30-31).
- Hebrews 12, after speaking of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, many of whom are dead says in Hebrews 12: 1 "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." This indicates they are watching us keenly to see how we run our race.

2. What about Near-Death Experiences (NDE)? Do they exist?

The bible records many people being resurrected from the dead, both in the Old Testament and the New for exampleⁱⁱ:

1. *Elijah the Prophet raised the widow of Zarephath's son* ([1 Kings 17:17-24](#)).

2. *Elisha the prophet raised the Shunammite woman's son ([2 Kings 4:18-37](#)).*
3. *A man raised out of Elisha's grave when he fell on Elisha's bones ([2 Kings 13:20-21](#))*
4. *Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7: 11-17)*
5. *Jesus raised Jairus' daughter ([Luke 8:40-56](#))*
6. *Jesus raised Lazarus of Bethany ([John 11](#)).*
7. *Various saints in Jerusalem raised when Jesus died and resurrected ([Matthew 27:50-53](#)).*
8. *Peter raised Tabitha (called "Dorcas") ([Acts 9:36-43](#)).*
9. *Paul raised Eutychus ([Acts 20:7-12](#)).*
10. *The Holy Spirit raised Jesus ([Mark 16:1-8](#))*

In none of these instances do we read stories of their descriptions of heaven or hell or any other part of the afterlife. Visions of heaven/God's glory always seemed to be given to People alive having visions (e.g Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, Daniel 7 and Revelation 4).

A near-death experience (NDE) is when a person is at the brink of death and, upon recovery, reports an unusual occurrence, generally an out-of-body experience or some sort of vision of heaven or hell. There is no specific scriptural support for near-death experiences. Many people use 2 Corinthians 12:2-5 as a biblical proof text of near-death experiences. That being said, it is not impossible for God to give someone near death, or anyone for that matter, a vision of heaven.

We need to be extremely careful in how we validate our experiences. The most important test of any experience is comparing it with the Bible. Satan is always ready to cause deception and twist people's thinking.

"But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So, it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end, they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).ⁱⁱⁱ

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. 2 Corinthians 12: 2- 5 (NIV).

NDEs are 50/50 as there is no scriptural evidence and some accounts not certain. For example:

I read NY times best seller "Heaven is real" by Todd Burpo. ^{iv} and I loved it! The author is a pastor and in many instances his narrations of his 4-year-old son's visit indicated close correlation to the bible. By comparison when I read another NY times best seller "Proof of Heaven" by a Neurosurgeon Eben Alexander ^v I hated it. This book started out good and then somewhere along the way started speaking of people performing some form of séance with a medium. Weird indeed, I hated it!

3. Cremate or bury what's the bible position?

Christians increasingly consider cremation as an option for disposal of bodies owing to rising funeral costs including the cost of a burial plot or the cost and logistics of transporting a body vs transporting or burying ashes.

Some people however wonder the bible position on cremation.

The bible doesn't give specific teaching about cremation. There are occurrences in the old Testament of people being burned to death (1 Kings 16:18; 2 Kings 21:6) and of human bones being burned (2

Kings 23:16-20), but these are not examples of cremation.^{vi} The predominant tradition in the bible was burial for example for Abraham's wife Sarah and Jesus (Genesis 23:19 and Matthew 27:60-66).

Some believers object to the practice of cremation on the basis it does not recognize that one day God will resurrect our bodies and re-unite them with our soul/spirit (1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:16). However, the fact that a body has been cremated does not make it any more difficult for God to resurrect that body. The bodies of Christians who died a thousand years ago have, by now, completely turned into dust. This will in no way prevent God from being able to resurrect their bodies.

Conclusion Why is this all comfort rather than fear?

Dead people cannot hear, so if you can hear this message then you are alive and have a chance to get it right before it's too late. Warning is a form of comfort; you can fix it! To fix something you need to know the truth, build your life on a rock not on sand (Matthew 7: 24-27) - all these half-truths and lies and fears.

Learning the wisdom of death can only come from Jesus for Satan puts a wool over your eyes like that atheist friend who told me: "what if you wasted all your life being a good Christian and then find there is nothing?" He didn't realise the foolishness of his own position, because I responded to him (paraphrased): "If I have wasted my life, not "having fun" and then there is nothing after this, then I suffer no loss, but if there is life after death, I will have only "wasted" maybe 80 years, but what about you? You will have spent 80 years of your life only to wake up and find there is an eternity, of hell!"

The bible indeed shows us the wisdom of thinking of death as follows:

- teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalms 90: 12).
- And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? Mark 8: 36- 37 (NLT).

Everything ultimately comes down to faith. I haven't been to the other side. Those who have had NDEs it's 50/50. Some say one thing and others another. I however believe in one who the bible record shows definitely died and rose again. He is the one who said, I go to prepare a place for you so that where I am, there you will be also (John 14:3). The same one who comforts all who mourn now that there will come a day when *"there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain"* (Rev 21: 4 KJ21)

If you have such comfort from God, like he gave me during my days of tears when I mourned dad, you can then get off your need, dry your tears and say "Oh death where is your sting?" Grave where is your victory? (1 Cor 15: 55) You can then answer as a great song I love: "he is alive, he is risen". You can with comfort take a stand of faith in Jesus and know that like the heroes of old who died and are waiting for their promise - a heavenly city whose maker is God (Hebrews 11: 9-10).

Practical steps:

- which 5 people do you want in heaven with you? What will you do about it?
- How are you prepared for death? Will? Life insurance? Grave site? Don't ignore these things. Think of others you leave behind and prepare for them, so as to reduce their grief.

- Now what about you? Are you ready? Can you afford not to be ready? This is your final exam; you just cannot fail it! I can't even imagine the consequences! Hell! Hell! Dad in hell? Mum in hell? Forbid it Lord! Not even my worst enemy should go there! Do you know Jesus? Note, I did not say: "Do you know about Jesus. I asked, do you know Jesus?" If not, repent, repent now before something worse happens!

Let us pray.

How can I pray for you?

- **You are faithfully searching for the Kingdom of God – but you can not see it clearly owing to all the traditions and fear blinding you. Jesus wants you to see clearly! Receive your sight back in Jesus' name; or**
- **You are a prodigal son/daughter– You used to believe but now you have fallen away. Thankfully Jesus is warning you to return to him, stop sinning before something worse happens(John 5: 14).**
- **You have never received the gift of Christ, being eternal life and neither have you received Jesus' Holy Spirit, the one who will give you the gift of faith to believe without seeing.**

Write to me so I can pray further for you: dwasake@shaweleroad.com

Next steps

- Visit our website which shows the steps it takes to get to know Jesus and be saved from this wicked generation. <https://www.shaweleroad.com/what-must-i-do-to-get-saved>
- Our work is freely given for we received freely from the Lord. If you however like what we are doing: [Then you can partner with us by giving to our work.](#)

Information notice board (continued)

Pray for us! Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) and keep up with our videos which support the website.

Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)?

<https://www.keepbelieving.com/>

We are called to spread hope in a world that lives without it.

The above ministry/website has not paid us to provide this recommendation and so the views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the ministry promoted above. Likewise the views therein do not necessarily reflect those of this ministry.

Notes

ⁱ <https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/716499/reincarnation-REAL-proof-life-after-death>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gotquestions.org/raised-from-the-dead.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gotquestions.org/near-death-experiences.html>

^{iv} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heaven_Is_for_Real

^v https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_of_Heaven

^{vi} <https://www.gotquestions.org/cremation-Bible.html>