

P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D., atwater@cinemind.com, www.pmhatwater.com

90 to 95% of Near-Death Experiencers Return Knowing God

by P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D.

The vast majority of near-death experiencers claim that what happened to them was a spiritual experience. This claim is missing from the literature and the research about the phenomenon, yet the experiencers themselves are saying it - loud and clear.

90 to 95% come back *knowing* God - not believing, for belief implies doubt. They know, and they know that they know. That strength of knowing is the same, whether child or adult. Is the God near-death experiencers encounter the same as that of Holy Writ? Not necessarily. The God on the other side of death, what these people are convinced they experienced, is described as being bigger, larger, more powerful than any religious version.

Experiencers may sometimes fumble with words. Many still use the term "God" - but just as many use different terms like Presence, Sourceplace, The One, All, The Greater Good, Creator, Universal Essence, Core. Seldom will adults describe a being of any kind or use masculine terms - like Father, He, Him. The majority insist that God is genderless. Children, on the other hand, usually encounter a Father or Grandfatherly type of being. Yet in those cases where the child confronted the being and demanded to know, "Is that what you really look like," invariably the masculine shape burst into a huge, brilliant light. Same with angels (the young often describe angels as having wings). If asked if their appearance is real - presto - the angels burst into light as well.

What lies at the heart of near-death experiences? More than you can imagine. I say that because I have been researching the near-death phenomenon since 1978, and have had sessions with nearly 4,000 child

and adult experiencers. Of the many books I have written about my findings, *Dying to Know You: Proof of God in the Near-Death Experience* (Rainbow Ridge Books) is different. The experiencers themselves speak in this book, the sum of the many, telling us what they saw, felt, heard. No opinions here. Instead, the sum of the many - talking about Mission (almost all were told they had a job to do and had to return); God (yes there is one, an Intelligence of massive proportions and power); Soul (our higher, greater self); Life (where we learn and grow and experience the results of our actions and thoughts); Death (a shift of energy that enables us to move on); Heaven and Hell (dimensions we can inhabit until we wake up and discover choice matters); the Big Picture (both the adult's view and that of the child). Specifics of what it feels like to die and what death really is are also covered.

Clearly, the near-death experience is not just a light show that features a predominant storyline. It is an extraordinary phenomenon that consists of an otherworldly journey of some kind - plus - a pattern of aftereffects that takes years to integrate. In my original research 21% claimed no discernible differences after their experience - yet 60% pegged significant changes afterward, 19% said changes were radical - almost as if they had become a different person. That makes 79% evidencing changes like: their mind working differently as well as their nervous and digestive systems, developing an unusual sensitivity to light and sound, with less tolerance of pharmaceuticals (forcing many to switch to integrative medicine and more natural forms of healthcare), and having electrical sensitivity. There's no argument that experiencers become more creative and intuitive afterward, smarter somehow, and more charitable and generous. Fear of death simply evaporates. Problems can occur, though, when family and friends shun experiencers or think they are crazy. In families where members are willing to listen without judgment and talk about it, everyone benefits making the situation a win-win for all concerned.

An individual of any age can have one of these experiences, and that means during birth trauma or when an infant. Typically when the child is old enough to talk, they tell their parents or draw pictures, or act it out. The average time without vital signs is from five to twenty minutes, some revive in a morgue. No skeptic has ever been able to account for the *entire* experience, and the pattern of aftereffects, plus

the broad range of children and adults who undergo what to them becomes a life changing experience - that increases in importance over time. The most commonly repeated phrase spoken by experiencers after their episode is. . . always there is life. Four words that sum up - everything.