

March 19, 2016

# “The Ultimate Learning”

The Mission of IANDS is to make known what can be learned from near-death experience. Before proceeding with what I feel may be the most significant learning we can understand from the body of knowledge we have gathered from reports of near-death experiences, let me take a moment to define an NDE. This has at least two perspectives. From the Earthly perspective an NDE is clinical death of the physical body. There is not much new to be learned from our observation of physical death. It appears that life ends. On the other hand, the spiritual perspective reveals just the opposite: life does not end at physical death. It should also be noted, as Diane Corcoran points out, “that many NDE’s happen when people are just very sick, in an accident or near drowning. They do not have to die to have an NDE.”

What happens at physical death is that the limitations of time-space on the consciousness are removed inasmuch as the mind is no longer confined to the physical body. The experiencer/ NDEr becomes aware of seemingly infinite realities, depending on what is shown and what is desired to be learned. This is commonly referred to as higher consciousness, and people gain it by having NDEs, NDLE (Near-Deathlike Experiences) OBEs (Out-of-Body Experiences) and STEs (Spiritually-Transformative Experiences).

NDEs seem to be produced and given, much in the way dreams are created. The experiencer receives what is given, but is also free to ask for more. For example, Mellon-Thomas Benedict died of cancer. (He spoke at Virginia Beach Friends of IANDS on Oct. 1, 2005.) He traveled through time. That’s what he was given. But he wanted to slow down. He wanted to remember what he experienced. His NDE developed just as he wanted. He was able to control his experience. He brought back much that he learned, including inventions designed to help humankind. For example, it was reported that he designed the children’s sneakers that have lights in them.

I have read about NDE over the past twenty years, and I have listened carefully to the speakers at Virginia Beach Friends of IANDS. These speakers were mostly NDErs, and some were OBErs, STErs, and sensitives. A couple were researchers. I am the keeper of the audio-cassette tapes and the videos of some 130 speakers. (A list can be viewed on the Directory of Speakers page of [www.vbiands.com](http://www.vbiands.com).) Each NDE is like a snapshot of life beyond, and I have learned much about life beyond the physical. About a year ago I began to conceptualize a grander understanding of NDE, and that is what this writing is all about.

The grand significance of NDE is the revelation that we are Divine. Think of all that we have been taught about God. God is Love, Light, Spirit, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and God is One. In their various NDEs, our speakers have experienced themselves as one or more of these. I am sharing what they have said for our greater understanding.

Omnipotence is a good place to start. This means that God can do anything. God is the Creator. God spoke, “Let there be Light, and Light appeared” (Genesis 1:3, The Living Bible, 1971). We are God’s offspring, and we have within us the ability to create. NDErs experienced their own

creative ability while out-of-body. For example, PMH Atwater (June 3, 2006) described how she created a house, a tree, even a whole neighborhood, just by thinking and intention. Dannon Brinkley wrote in his book, *Saved by the Light*, that we are “powerful spiritual beings.”

Omniscience is the concept that God knows everything. Many NDErs say that during their NDE they knew everything. Bill Taylor (Feb. 3, 2007) is one of these. He said that during his NDE he knew how the universe works, both the spiritual and the physical realms. He said the spiritual realm is so simple. The physical realm is more complicated. He also said that he didn't bring the details of this understanding back to Earth with him, but he remembers that he understood it. As mentioned above, Mellen-Thomas Benedict saw universes and understood it all. He asked to remember it, and did so after his return.

Some NDErs also say that they were able to perceive in minute detail the scene of their death. For example, someone who died in an operating room was observing the scene from above and said he could have counted the number of hairs on the arm of one of the medical personnel. Others have described the composition of the layers of building materials in the ceilings of rooms through which they passed as they ascended to positions above the buildings in which their bodies died. Also in the OBE state they say that they grasped the answers to questions almost as quickly as they posed the questions. To summarize, they experienced an expansion of perception, knowledge, and understanding.

What seems to happen during an NDE is that the mind of the experiencer melds with what we might call Universal Mind. That would be God's Omniscient Mind. The joining of the individual mind with God's mind is not a new idea. A similar concept is found in Ecclesiastes 12:6 - 7, which reads, “Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps. . . and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it” (TLB). Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, the wise king who sought to understand the meaning of life and who expressed it in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Paul the Apostle also wrote about comprehensive knowledge in the life beyond. The verse is First Corinthians 13:12, which reads, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (The New King James Version, 1979).

Another quality of God's Being is Omnipresence. Christian theologians teach that God is everywhere. NDErs report that they could transport themselves instantaneously anywhere and anywhen just by thinking. (I use the relatively unknown word anywhen because it fits the description of being able to go to any time just by thinking. Anywhen harkens to the teaching that time is not linear, but is happening all at once. Hence the term The Eternal Now.) In his NDE, Lono Ho'ala (Aug. 7, 2004) saw bubbles that were episodes of his life. By intention he could enter into a bubble and re-experience it.

It seems we can't be everywhere all at once, as we imagine God is, but this is understandable inasmuch as we are not all of God, but only a part. NDErs have described seeing past lives and future lives. The Mind of God encompasses the Eternal Now, and during an NDE the experiencer shares that Mind.

Perhaps the most favored description of God in the Bible is Love. I John 4:8 reads “God is Love.” Many NDErs describe that they learned their own essence to be Love. Not only this, but that everything is made of Love. (Ann Ellis publishes a collection of aspects of Love, especially

related to the NDE. The blogs called "2014 Meditations on LOVE" are available at [www.revelationsofprofoundlove.com](http://www.revelationsofprofoundlove.com). More can be found by Googling "Revelations of Profound Love.")

Others have said that all is Light. Bill Taylor describes God as the Love-Light. John also wrote "God is Light" (I John 1:5). It's easy to follow that God made all things out of God's Self, and inasmuch as God is Love-Light, so also is the essence of all things. Einstein gave us the formula  $E=MC^2$ , which gives the equivalents for the exchange of energy and matter. Light is energy. One interpretation of the creation story in Genesis is that God created the Light, and then fashioned everything else out of the Light. In fact, I use Light for self-healing. I envision a ball of golden Light to surround the affected body part with the intention that the part will absorb the energy for healing. This has worked for me to heal a knee and a shoulder.

Another description of God in the Bible is Spirit. Jesus said, "God is Spirit" (John 4:24). NDErs have described their essential nature apart from the physical body as spirit. It's described as less "dense" and mysterious. While out-of-the-body experiencers will try to touch things in the physical world, but their hands will go right through them because their spiritual hands are less dense. They will look at themselves and observe that they have a translucent body, and that it is lighted from within, an indication that we are made of Light. The Apostle Paul may have been referring to this when he wrote, "For just as there are natural, human bodies, there are also supernatural, spiritual bodies" (I Corinthians 15:44).

The words for spirit in the Biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew are *pneuma* and *ruach* respectively. These words can also be translated into English as "breath" and "wind" according to context. Breath and wind illustrate mysteriousness. Wind is unseen, a force sometimes gentle and sometimes powerful. Breath is the evidence of life. From the Earthly perspective, spirit describes the mysterious realm of invisible beings that surrounds us, and in our current parlance we use the word spirit to refer to all aspects of the non-physical.

Oneness is another description of God. This is one interpretation of the Shema, the Jewish statement of faith, which is found in Deuteronomy 6:4 and reads "God is One." NDErs report that they came to understand that they are part of a Oneness that includes everything, and that the Oneness is God. This was clear to Victor Taylor (March 14, 2015), whose story follows below.

Spirit seems to have the inherent characteristic of being One. By that I mean that one part of Spirit is in communion with every other part continuously. Another way to say this is that Spirit is not divided. This is an important concept to understand when thinking about our God relationship. We are not separate from God. God is Spirit, and our essence is Spirit. We are One. Jesus said it of himself. He said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30, TLB), but apparently this applies to all of us.

Now I would like to write directly to the point. Some NDErs are told that they are part of the Divine. One NDEr whose story I read asked God to describe how he was related to God. God said, "You are like a digit on my little finger." Another NDEr, Scott Hobbs, (Oct. 7, 2006) said he came to understand in his NDE that on Earth we are like the contents of an eyedropper filled with water from the ocean. We are the same essence as God. Scott used the word fractal to describe this. A fractal is a smaller part of the whole which contains all of the elements of the whole. Many have said that a human being is like a drop from the ocean. I think it was Rumi who penned a more correct description by writing that we are the ocean in a drop.

Reece Manley described our identity as parts of God better than anyone else I have ever heard or read. He was scheduled twice to speak at VBIANDS, but both times he had to cancel his trip due to ill health, and he died before he could be rescheduled. Reece wrote of his NDE in his book, *Crossing Twice, Answers from the Source*. He wrote that he wanted to see God. His wish was granted. He came to view a huge brilliant Orb. He knew this to be the Source. As he was watching he also saw many smaller orbs, some coming out from the Source, and some returning to the Source. He observed that every orb was connected to every other orb and to the Source by what appeared to be beams of Light.

I have always cherished that description because it clarifies that we are parts of God and that we are all connected. This supports the concept of Oneness, and also suggests that life on Earth is a sojourn of the soul away from the Source.

Others who experienced being part of God include Andy Petro (March 3, 2007) who said he went into the Light. He became One with the Light, and yet retained his identity as Andy. The Light called him by his name, Andy; and Suzanne Boehm (May 3, 2008) also described how she went into the Source during her NDE.

Victor Taylor's NDE (March 14, 2015) is even more specific about being Divine, and includes the attributes too. He was pursuing his commitment to a life of self-discovery by traveling to California to study with Bob Frissell, who had written the book, *Nothing In This Book Is True, But It's Exactly How Things Are*. Without much funds, he found himself camping under the stars. He reflected on his first Rebirthing session. He wrote, "No sensation or event in my life had EVER made me feel so much physical and mental pleasure. Within 45 minutes of beginning this simple breathing technique I became aware that I was in a field of unconditional love. I became aware of my power as a creator of my own reality.

"At this time of the year, the nighttime temperature would drop to about 55 degrees, making it impossible to sleep for more than a few hours each night. After doing this for about 15 days, this night, I was sleep deprived.

"After borrowing a tarp from a nearby boating business, I laid down on the beach in a secluded spot inside my tarp which I had folded like an envelope to trap my body heat. I was lying on my back looking up at the trees as the late evening sun reinforced my feeling of well-being.

"Suddenly, I opened my eyes. It was dark. There were the same trees above me. I had fallen asleep on my back. Never in my life was I able to fall asleep on my back, I would always instinctively roll to my side. Tonight, I found out why.

"I moved to sit up. I rolled forward in space and there below me was my body, lying on its back, motionless and pale blue in the moonlight. The shock of this sight made me aware that nothing I

was experiencing was the same. I was expanded like a cloud of sensation of about 25 feet in diameter. I could feel everything and anything in my vicinity.

“My first thought was ‘I need to find out if God exists.’ Using my mind-directed expanding cloud of sensation, I expanded and expanded. I was as big as the whole beach, now as big as the state, now as big as the Earth and further and further until I had reached the edges of the universe searching for some dark safe center where surely God would reside.

“I was there. I knew I was in the presence of God. As I moved closer, my viewpoint changed suddenly. Instead of looking at God, I was now God looking out. I was alone. There, in that darkness I could see that I was God, and I was all that exists.

“I snapped back to the vicinity of my body. The amount of love around me was incomparable to any earthly feeling. It was as if one thousand mothers and one thousand fathers were all loving me at once. And the wisdom! I knew everything! There was absolutely nothing in the universe that I did not know. I was perfect and complete. I was a being of infinite size, invincible, eternal, made out of a love so powerful as to put earthly love to shame. I could see that all around me was power. Infinitely strong power. Power so potent that, directed by the human mind, it could vaporize any matter in milliseconds. In the space of the palm of our cupped hand is so much electrical force that were our body to synchronize with it we would vaporize to dust in an instant. The electrical energy of our soul is so massive that were our human form to gently brush against it we would break apart like a fuse with too much voltage.

“I could see that my personality was an illusion. The man who I call Victor Taylor was a fiction. A fiction not even created by my own hand, but a fiction constructed by the environment I was raised in. My personality was no more ‘of me’ than the scent of flowers on my pant leg after walking through a flowery prairie would be ‘of me.’ My true personality was infinite wisdom and power and omnipotent love. I had come to this human experience of vulnerability and smallness to experience an entertaining illusion. The meaning of life is enlightened entertainment.

“I knew there that when our loved ones die, they have more ability to influence our lives than they ever could've while in a body. Without this limiting body, they can change events and move the minds of the living as easily as a puppet moves a marionette.

‘From this perspective I could see that any suffering or pain in our life is not really pain at all. All humans will return to this state upon dying, and the suffering of poverty, torture and imprisonment will come into perspective. Even in our most depressed suicidal states, if we were to act upon our feelings and commit suicide we would immediately feel a kind of regret that we wasted a body in an exciting life.

“I could also see that we humans have rarely if ever experienced the pleasure of giving and receiving love. The emotions that we call bliss, joy, and love are actually just relief from the constant suffering. Only in the moment of uncontrollable tear-jerking gut-laughter do we even begin to taste what love really feels like. Even then, it can hardly be called a taste.

“All of these realizations occurred to me over a few seconds of time as I was being forced foot-by-foot closer to my body. Now, about five feet away, I became aware of my body. My body was emitting a kind of ‘interference’. This interference was blocking my perception of these higher things like the infinite love and infinite wisdom. It was like a fog that blinded my sight. I realized that I needed to hold fast to my experience or I would lose all of it in the ‘fog.’ I was now beginning to wiggle into my body feet first, moving into my shoulders. The sensation was beyond disgusting. I was being forced in by some unseen force, otherwise I would not have continued.

“Imagine taking a dead body, allowing it to rot in the sun inside a plastic bag for two weeks, slice it open the long way, strip naked and slide in. That’s exactly what it felt like. Here is where I received my greatest revelation:

“My body was a corpse. My body was not, and has never been alive. It is animated by the tiniest trickle of my soul. It is a zombie, a rotting flesh, stumbling through life, lost to the divine life force, zombie. I could see under my skin. In the shadowy rivers of my blood were particles of putrid decay. Soft dead flesh made up the rest of my body, it being so out of sync with the divine life force that it had lost its true crystalline nature. Witnessing this disgusting horror I then saw the solution to the human condition. 70% of our bodies waste is eliminated through the breath. As I wiggled into my personal corpse I realized that the one biggest thing I could do to ‘retune’ my body to the divine energy and to purify the flesh was to

breathe.

“I’ve now wiggled in to where my observation point is looking out from the top of my head. There was a moment of darkness followed by a snap sound and my physical eyes opened as I gasped for air making a terrifying ‘just-came-out-of-suffocation’ sound. My body is totally wracked with adrenaline with every cell screaming that we had just faced death.

“I shot up and paced the beach the rest of the night afraid to go back to sleep. At first I believed that I asphyxiated my body by sleeping wrapped in a plastic tarp. I later found out that I had sleep apnea, and since I had fallen asleep on my back while sleep deprived, I suffocated.”

Sincerely,

Victor Taylor

In conclusion and summary, people return from a near-death experience and stretch their mental capacities to make sense of it. There aren’t any Earthly superlatives equal to the experience of Love, Peace, Joy, and Beauty. Having heard many people tell of their NDEs at VBIANDS, what makes sense to me is that an NDE is an experience of Divine Being. Persons who have NDEs report that they experienced the spectrum of God’s attributes and powers: Light, Love, Spirit, Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence/Creative Ability and Oneness. They didn’t have them all within the same experience. They were like the blind men feeling their

way and describing an elephant. An NDE brings to consciousness the state of our existence apart from the physical, which according to NDErs is how we existed before coming to Earth and how we will exist after leaving Earth.

Coming to know oneself as God is the goal of the spiritual path. NDErs give us reports that, when put together, can help humankind achieve that spiritual goal. At church ([www.fellowshipoftheinnerlight.com](http://www.fellowshipoftheinnerlight.com)) recently Lloyd Kremer read words of Paul Solomon, founder of Fellowship of the Inner Light, that we are "child gods, growing up to be what our Father is." That is a good way for us to understand our experience on Earth. I would say that virtually every NDEr would agree that the purpose of our lives on Earth is to mature in our ability to extend unconditional Love. Jesus described it this way: "But you are to be perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

Knowing Who We Are and the resources within us enables us to have a new perspective of living on Earth. We need not feel overwhelmed by the troubles and limitations of this world. We can exercise our creative ability and capacity for unconditional love to create a good future for ourselves, for the Earth, and for all its inhabitants.

May the reader be blessed/made happy in the greater understanding that we are Divine. If the reader has any doubt, here are the words of Jesus affirming the statement of the psalmist:

"I, the Most High God, say that all of you are gods." Psalm 82:6

"In your Scriptures doesn't God say, 'You are gods?'" John 10:34

Sincerely, Dick Dinges