

Near Death Experiences

Are they true?

Or are they fabricated?

- **Series – You ask it.**
- **Subject – Near Death Experiences, are they true?**
- **Resources used in examining this subject.**
 - 1- **Heavens Encounters by Randy Kay.** Randy Kay records 140 reports of near-death experiences.
 - 2- **Bible – Does the Bible have any examples of these experiences?**
 - 3- **Personal interviews - I was able to interview two people that made the claim they had supernatural experiences. One near death and another an encounter with a heavenly being. (Angel)**
- **In Randy Kay's book, Heaven's Encounters, he used only thirty percent of the "Near-Death Experiences" that he received. The criteria he used was, there must be evidence from a hospital, some body condition, or verification from a family member that this person was near death. He felt this would make his book more meaningful.**
- **In his book, he not only reported about people that claimed to have entered heaven, but he also recorded experiences of people that claimed to enter the realm of hell.**
- **Many of these people did not report what they encountered for many months or years, for fear of what others would say or think.**
- **Those that claim to have these experiences have a challenging time describing what they saw. Words cannot do justice to the sights and sounds.**
- **Bible – The Bible is the final authority on all things. 2nd Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**
- **Does the Bible give examples of "Near Death Experiences" or supernatural events where people have had visions of heaven/hell?**

Answer – The Bible is full of supernatural events. From Genesis 1 – Revelation 22 God works and moves in ways that the human minds can't fully comprehend. Isaiah 55:9 – For the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- **Some Biblical events to consider.**

1. Review the creation story starting at Genesis 1.
2. The Children of Israel in their exodus from Egypt.
3. God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant. 2nd Kings 17
4. Ezekiel 1:26-28 – God gave Ezekiel a view into heaven and the glory of the Lord.
5. Acts 7:56 – God allowed Steven a view of heaven. Steven saw the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.
6. 2nd Corinthians 12:2-4 – The Apostle Paul was caught up in paradise.
7. Revelation 4:1 – After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! God allowed John to see inside heaven.

- **Areas of caution when evaluating this subject.**

- 1- These experiences should never be used to establish doctrine.
- 2- Any experience that contradicts Scripture should be rejected.
- 3- The Christian's confidence should rest on the Word of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 4- Does the reported experience glorify God, or bring recognition and attention to the one making the report?

- **Closing point**

- 1- Are these experiences essential for a follower of Christ to have?

Answer – No – John 20:29 – “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” These are the words of Jesus.