



QUESTIONS & CONCERNS PASTORS MIGHT HAVE

1 HOW DO YOU KNOW THESE NDEs ARE TRUSTWORTHY?

We don't, but when thousands of people all over the globe are giving virtually the same eyewitness accounts (bank presidents, doctors, blind people, and children from different races and cultures), you have to wonder how. What they report initially about watching their resuscitation from outside their physical body has convinced many skeptical doctors. Over 900 scholarly articles have been written on NDEs, including *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Psychiatry*, and *The Lancet*. We never want to encourage people to form a view of Heaven based on these experiences, but on the Bible. Those having NDEs say there was a "border" or "boundary" they knew they could not cross and still return to earth. So, these experiences cannot tell us what happens after full biological death, only God's Word can do that, but the core experiences align with God's Word.

2 DO YOU REALIZE THAT SOME NDEs SAY REALLY UNBIBLICAL THINGS?

Yes, and we must teach that every gift from God (which we believe these are) gets distorted and re-interpreted by culture (just look at God's gift of sex for instance). We are not trying to get people to believe individual stories, but rather to see that what's common among the reports show that the Heaven of the Bible and the God of the Bible are real. Each person is interpreting an experience that's hard to put in earthly language, so if they don't have a biblical background, they will interpret it in a different framework, but what they report best fits the Bible's picture of the afterlife. That's what we are showing the culture.

3 DON'T NDEs LEAD PEOPLE TO A UNIVERSALISTIC, "EVERYONE GOES TO HEAVEN" IDEA?

No, not at all. 23% of all reported NDEs were hellish in nature. One of our Christ Together Greater Austin pastors came to faith in Jesus because of his hellish NDE after a cocaine overdose. While it's true that many non-Christians may have positive NDEs, the book and the series will show clearly that just because an NDE starts positive, doesn't always mean it's headed that way.

4 HOW COULD NON-CHRISTIANS SEE THIS LOVING BEING OF LIGHT THEY CALL GOD?

Scripture tells us that "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him" (Rev. 1:7). Paul saw Jesus on his way to arrest Christians, but that didn't mean he was saved. In fact, Jesus (this blinding man of light that NDEs encounter) did not tell Paul how to be saved, He led Ananias to baptize Paul. So, the fact that non-Christians encounter this God of Light and Love, but God doesn't "share Christ" with them, actually fits the Biblical model of how God chooses to work.