

activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

FLATLANDERS

Is there another dimension that you're missing?

PARADISE—THE LAND OF LOVE

The truth is more wonderful than fiction

“THE JACK CONNECTION”

A glimpse of Heaven

For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, contact one of our distributors below, or visit our website at www.activated.org

Activated Ministries
PO Box 462805
Escondido, CA 92046-2805
USA
Toll-free: (1-877) 862-3228
E-mail: info@actmin.org

Activated Europe
Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
Enterprise Way
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 845 838 1384
E-mail: activatedEurope@activated.org

Activated Africa
P.O. Box 2150
Westville 3630
South Africa
+27 (83) 556 8213
E-mail: activatedAfrica@activated.org

Activated India
P.O. Box 5215
G.P.O.
Bangalore - 560 001
India
E-mail: activatedIndia@activated.org

Activated Philippines
P.O. Box 1147
Antipolo City P.O.
1870 Antipolo City
Philippines
E-mail: activatedPI@activated.org
Cel: (0922) 8125326

PERSONALLY SPEAKING



There once was a land, or so I've been told, that was so isolated that its inhabitants believed the mountains surrounding their little valley formed the edge of the world. And for them it did. Once in a blue moon someone would venture beyond the mountains and come back with fantastic stories about what they'd seen and experienced, but their reports were routinely dismissed as fabrications and quickly forgotten.

Life in that inward-looking little land was difficult, but the people had become so accustomed to the daily struggle that most of the time they just accepted it. Life got *really* hard, however, when the river would suddenly overflow without warning and bury their village in mud, or their crops would mysteriously catch fire in the night, or the water from their wells made them and their animals deathly sick.

Then one day a stranger came and told them more fantastic stories about a wonderful kingdom beyond the mountains, but they laughed him to scorn. They also didn't believe him when he said that the flash floods and mysterious fires and poisoned wells were the work of a dark prince who ruled another not-so-wonderful kingdom beyond the mountains, and that he—the stranger—had come to teach them how to defend themselves against the dark prince's attacks. After awhile the stranger left and they never heard from him again. And to this day the people of that land continue to struggle, as they always have.

It makes you wonder how anyone could be so closed minded and foolish, but you'd be surprised at how many people today are like that when it comes to matters of the spiritual realm that surrounds and influences them now and awaits them at life's end.

Jesus is a lot like the stranger in that story, except that we will never hear the last from Him. He came to make our lives better, He wants to reveal to us the secrets of the spirit world, and He's always just a prayer away.

KEITH PHILLIPS

Keith Phillips
FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

VOL 8, ISSUE 9 September 2007
EDITOR Keith Phillips
DESIGN Giselle LeFavre
ILLUSTRATIONS Doug Calder
PRODUCTION Francisco Lopez

© 2007 Aurora Production AG - www.auroraproduction.com
All Rights Reserved. Printed in Taiwan by Chanyi Printing Co., Ltd
All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.

Never

ALONE

BY ROHIT KUMAR

WE HAD JUST FINISHED A PROGRAM FOR 300 TEENAGE INMATES at a correctional center in northern India, and many of the boys gathered around us. The theme of our program that day had been the importance of faith in the face of difficulty. That had been something they all could relate to, especially the difficulty part.

A thin fellow standing off in a corner caught my eye. I could tell he wanted to talk but was too shy to make the first move, so I introduced myself and asked him to tell me about himself. He was from a village about 900 km (550 mi) away, he explained, and had come to the big city in search of work. He had been penniless when he was caught traveling without a railway ticket and was sentenced to three months in jail.

“A few days ago,” he told me, “I was sick with a very high fever. All I could do was lie in the corner. I could barely move. I have never been so sick before, and I honestly thought I was going to die. I was so scared! I thought of my parents and brothers back home. I desperately needed someone to be with me and take care of

me, but here I was, far away from home, with no one. I started crying and asked God to please not let me die.

“Just then, something very strange happened. I opened my eyes and a man in white clothes was standing over me. He had the kindest eyes I have ever seen. He didn’t say a word, but just waved his hand over me and my fever was gone. I felt cool and relaxed. The man disappeared and I never saw him again. Would you happen to know this man’s name?”

I looked through the bag of inspirational material I had brought along until I found a poster with an artist’s conception of Jesus, and I asked him, “Was this the man?”

The boy broke into a big smile and said, “Ah, yes! That was the man! What is his name?”

I told him about Jesus, His wonderful love, and His power to heal, and that afternoon the boy prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior. It was a beautiful reminder of how much the Lord cares for each of His children. We’re never alone. ←

ROHIT KUMAR IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN INDIA.

FLATLANDERS

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT! We are about to leave the drab and restrictive domain of the Flatlander and delve into the thrilling realm of the spirit world!

Come now and tune in to the mysterious dimension of eternal realities: the

living world of forever rather than the dying world of now, the everlasting realm of eternity rather than the temporary space of time, the fascinating dimension that is largely unseen by us in mortal flesh, rather than this mundane plane, which is so temporary.

The Bible tells us to set our affection on things above—Heaven—not on things on the earth, for the things which are seen are only for a time, but the things which are not seen are eternal (Colossians 3:2; 2 Corinthians 4:18).

All God's children of faith since the beginning of time have been looking for an unseen world, a "city which has foundations"—eternal foundations—"whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Not having received all that God had promised them but having seen those promises from afar, they remained strangers and pilgrims on the earth because they sought a better, heavenly, country.

Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, and He has prepared just such a place for them, the awesome Heavenly City, New Jerusalem, which will come down from God, out of the heavens, to rest on planet Earth (Hebrews 11:13–16; Revelation 21:2–3).

This is the hope of all ages: that now unseen eternal world where we shall dwell with Him forever, the heavenly city described in the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22, and mentioned in many other places throughout the Scriptures. That's what we're all looking forward to—not pie in the sky, but literal Heaven on Earth.

But God's invisible heavenly kingdom is already in operation and existence, here and now! It not only surrounds us but is within us. As Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

Science tells us that in order to exist, all material objects must have four dimensions: length, breadth, and depth, which comprise space, and one more—time. Einstein brought out clearly in his theories of relativity that time and space are definitely related. Nothing can occupy material space without time; things must have time to exist.

I'm holding in my hand an amazing little postcard, a beautiful underwater scene of God's gorgeous and colorful creation. Now

the strange thing is that as I look at this postcard nearly edge-on, I can really only see about two dimensions, length and breadth. I am in the land of the Flatlander who can only understand his own little world of two dimensions, with no depth whatsoever. He can't see anything else. And as I look at this card edge-on, I can't see anything else either. If I were a Flatlander, I would insist that there was no other world beyond my two dimensions, just because I couldn't see it.

But as I move in a direction unknown to the Flatlander so that I'm looking down on the postcard from above, I find myself in an amazing world indeed, because this is a three-dimensional postcard. Suddenly it seems to have an altogether new dimen-

sion, depth. I seem to be able to see into the picture and observe some objects in front of others. A reed is growing in front of a lovely red coral, fish are swimming in between, and the pebbled bottom fades away into the distance, even beyond my new 3D vision.

So now we have entered a new world, beyond the scope of the poor Flatlander who can only see two directions, if he could exist at all, and we are looking in a new direction which opens a whole new beautiful world to explore. We have become like a god to the Flatlander, a being entirely beyond his comprehension.

We are now above his lowly plane of only two dimensions, and because he can

neither look up nor down, we have passed completely out of his sight. Unless we stoop to his lowly level, he cannot see us at all, much less understand our new dimension. For him to be able to see us, we have to get on the exact same plane as him; the moment we vary the slightest fraction out of his plane we are truly “out of sight”!

Our 3D world is one of almost unlimited space, so much larger and greater than his that he could not possibly begin to understand it or us. Ours is a whole new world, marvelous and magnificent, that the Flatlander does not even know exists, simply because he cannot see it.

Even if it were possible to show it to him, it would be so beyond his two-dimensional understanding that he would probably be like the old country farmer, who, the first time he saw a giraffe, said, “There just ain’t no such thing!”

The fact of the matter is that the dear little Flatlander, in his pride, hates to admit that there’s anything beyond his level. Poor fellow! How limited his vision, how narrow his realm, how restricted his scope of operation! Since he can’t go anywhere else, he just hates to admit that there is anywhere else. And he is particularly furious with anyone who claims to have been lifted up into that other world and caught a glimpse of what is beyond his own little domain. But just because he doesn’t believe in a realm that is invisible to him, that doesn’t make it not so!

And so it is with what the Bible calls the “natural man” who refuses to believe that anything such as a fifth dimension, a spirit

world, could possibly exist, simply because he’s never seen it or been there. “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him” (1 Corinthians 2:14). And so he says, “There just ain’t no such thing,” simply because he never saw it before.

To dismiss the entire spiritual realm like that would be just as absurd as if you were to say, “I don’t believe that New York City or London exist because I’ve never been there.” How ridiculous can you get!

The Bible is full of evidence, stories, and positive declarations of the existence of this fifth dimension, the spirit world. Some of its immortal characters, having passed on into it through death, even came back to tell us about it. Others were lifted up into the realm of the spirit to get a brief glimpse or vision of it, and many received messages from there. And some of us have even been there! I have, so I know it exists.

And you can know too! If you really want to know the truth and are willing to admit that others have something you haven’t got but would like, and if you will humbly confess your limitations and ask God and His children to help you find that whole new world, you too can know the indescribable joys, the beautiful scenes, the delightful sounds, and the ecstatic feelings of that marvelous heavenly realm! It’s such a wonderful, happy place; it’s “out of this world”! You’ll love it! Why not try it? What have you got to lose? ←

**DAVID BRANDT BERG (1919–1994)
WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE FAMILY
INTERNATIONAL.**



BY ANA FIELDS

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, when I was somewhere between sleep and wakefulness, I had a dream that seemed to be *more* than a dream—more like an experience. I was in Heaven, and I was with people from my mother’s side of the family who had passed on. I didn’t actually see my mother, who had died not long before, but I could sense that she was there too. I was semi-reclined on a couch, and my relatives were gathered around in a circle, having a discussion. I didn’t seem to be privy to what they were discussing, but was more like an observer viewing the interaction between them. They interacted so well and there was such an air of peace and harmony about it all that I took that as a further indication we were in Heaven.

The focus of this experience—at least what I was focused on—was a young man who was leading the discussion and seemed to be the others’ spiritual elder, despite the fact that he was younger than some of them. He appeared to be in his late 20s and was quite handsome. Occasionally he would look over at me

and smile, and once he winked at me, which made me blush. I was in a spiritual realm, but still had human responses.

That’s about all there was to the dream or experience. The whole time I kept wondering who the young man was. I’d never seen him before, yet he was definitely a member of my mother’s side of our family. Then right as the experience ended, I heard someone say, “This is Jack.”

I was so sure that this had been more than a dream that I wrote to my father and asked if he knew of anyone by the name of Jack on my mother’s side of the family.

He wrote back saying that he’d been investigating the “Jack connection,” as he put it, and found that mother’s mother—my grandmother—had a younger brother who was killed in World War II. His name was John, but everyone had affectionately called him Jack. “The others say he was the best one in the family,” my father wrote.

So it seems I really did “see” my grandmother’s brother Jack, and I think the Lord may have let that happen for my father’s encouragement, to reinforce the reality of the spirit world and the next life. ←

ANA FIELDS IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL.

A veil exists between the spirit world and the earthly plane in which we live. However, God on occasion opens or lifts this veil to reveal to us His truths. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9–10).

God's visible creation is an illustration of the things in the spirit, a picture of the world to come. For everything there, there's a counterpart, a natural example, here. “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20, KJV).

Whenever there is a copy, somewhere there must be the original. To find God in everything makes life the greatest adventure there is!

The present material world is only temporary, but the now-unseen spirit world will never pass away. “Of old You [God] laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure” (Psalm 102:25–26). “The things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

The apostle Paul explained that our perception of the unseen world is presently somewhat obscured: “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” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

There is only one God Almighty, the Creator of all things, but there are also countless millions of lesser spiritual beings whom He has created, who operate within the bounds God has established for them.

The American preacher William M. Branham (1906–1965) explained his experiences with the spirit world this way: “They're sort of like when I was a little boy. I wanted to see what was going on at the [baseball] game and I couldn't afford to pay my way in, so I used to climb the fence and cling to the top of the fence and peek in. That's sort of how the Lord does with me, only I don't do it in my own energy anymore. Now it's like when my big brother used to lift me up and hold me so I could peek over—the Lord sort of lifts me up and lets me peek in.”

God wants us to believe in things unseen purely by faith, because of what He says about them in His Word. If we could see all that is around us in the spirit world, it would be too easy to believe. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:1,6).

Points to Ponder

THE UNSEEN WORLD AND HOW IT WORKS

In Matthew chapter 8, we read of a Roman centurion who hit upon an important truth about the spirit world when he asked Jesus to heal his servant, saying, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it” (Matthew 8:8–9). God and Jesus don’t have to do everything or personally carry out every answer to our prayers. They’ve got plenty of help in the form of angels and other spirit beings, including believers who have died and passed over to the spiritual realm, whom the apostle Paul calls “the spirits of just men made perfect” (Hebrews 12:23).

The 11th chapter of the New Testament’s book of Hebrews lists the exploits of many of the most outstanding men and women of God who appear in the Old Testament. Immediately following this list of heroes and heroines of faith, we are told in the first verse of the next chapter, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). The heroes of faith of Hebrews 11 are among those many witnesses. Think how wonderful it is that there are millions up there, all watching and praying for us, and lots of them coming down to help!

Some helpers from the spirit world are given to people to stay with them and watch over them through their entire lives. These are commonly referred to as guardian angels (Psalm 34:7; 91:11–12). Others are sent on special assignments when there is an especially great need or in answer to prayer, such as the angel who came to Daniel’s aid when he was thrown into the den of lions, or the figure who mysteriously appeared with Daniel’s friends in the fiery furnace, who King Nebuchadnezzar said looked like “the Son of God” (Daniel 6:20–22; 3:22–28).

Because in our life here we are confined within the parameters of the four dimensions—length, breadth, depth, and time—there are many things about Heaven and the spirit world that are impossible for us to completely understand. Yet little bits and pieces that we gather start to fall into place like pieces in a giant intriguing puzzle. The more we learn, the more apparent it becomes that there is infinitely more to discover. ←

The Whispering Nurse

IT HAPPENED TO ME

BY JOANNA ADINO, BRAZIL

IN THE EIGHTEENTH WEEK of my ninth pregnancy, I started to bleed a little. I went for some tests, and that's when my doctor discovered that I had a tumor. He said it would be a miracle if the baby survived.

I prayed and asked Jesus to let me keep the baby because I felt that this was going to be my last pregnancy, and the Lord did a miracle and brought the baby to full term, in spite of a lot of pain in my back and uterus. She was delivered by cesarean section—beautiful, big, and healthy!

After the birth, my doctor said I would need to wait for two months before he could operate to remove the tumor, which by that time had been found to be malignant. Shortly before I was scheduled for that surgery, I woke up hemorrhaging. I called the doctor and went to the hospital immediately. There I was told that I had lost a lot of blood and needed a transfusion right away. Apparently the tumor had erupted inside me, causing the hemorrhaging. The doctors couldn't stop the bleeding. Though I was given 18 bags of blood, the hemorrhaging continued. My husband phoned the other members of our community of volunteers and asked them to pray for me.

I didn't want any of my children to see me, because I believed I was dying and I didn't want them to remember me in that condition. The nurses who were attending to me called for the doctors, because they saw I was rapidly getting worse. I couldn't feel my legs at all. "All the blood we put into her is just going out again, and nothing we do is helping," the head nurse told the doctor. I was certain at that moment that I was on my way to meet Jesus face to face.

By then I couldn't feel any part of my body, and I told Jesus that I was willing to



go if He wanted me to; I wouldn't fight His will, if that was His plan for me. That was quite an experience—telling the Lord that I was ready to go to Him right then and there!

Later, when they took me into the operating room, there was an older, dark-skinned nurse with a very sweet face. She took my hands, looked at me and said, "Don't worry! The angels are all here waiting. Jesus is here waiting!" She kept looking into my eyes and petted my face, head, and hands, and I started to relax. She said, "The Lord is here with you. He loves you. I'm here with you, too, and I'll stay by your side always. You are going to sleep now, but I'm going to be right here."

She started whispering when all the doctors came in and everything got very hectic in the room. A cancer specialist had come in, as well as several nurses, and they were all talking very fast. The dark-skinned nurse started whispering Bible verses in my ear. One of them was, "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalm 34:7). She kept whispering that verse in my ear, and it was life to me as I went under anesthesia. I was in surgery for four hours.

When I woke up, I had a strange sensation, and the first thing I thought of was that nurse. I wanted to talk to her and looked around for her, but I couldn't find her. When my husband came, I tried to tell him how the nurse had helped me and what she had said about the Lord and angels being all around me in the operating room, but I was so tired and weak that I couldn't express myself well.

Later, after I had recovered from the anesthesia, I asked one of the doctors who had operated on me about the nurse, but he and the others who had been present

said that there hadn't been anyone by that description in the operating room. Had she been an angel? It seems so!

The cancer specialist told my husband that the tumor had been there for as long as seven years, but had been hidden. What the doctor had seen while examining me during my pregnancy was only a very small part.

Another thing I learned later was that at the same time I had been bleeding so heavily, our friends and coworkers had gathered and were praying for me, and several of them saw visions in which angels were at my side. When I told them about the nurse, I found out that the things she had said and Bible verses she had quoted to me were the exact same messages that they had received from the Lord for me in their prayer meeting. Amazing! ←

JOANNA ADINO IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN BRAZIL.

PARADISE

the Land of Love

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE? Is there really such a place as Heaven? Is there such a place as Hell? Does God exist? If you're afraid of dying, you don't need to be, because there is a beautiful kingdom called Heaven awaiting all those who love God.

If you could catch a glimpse of that heavenly realm, as some people who have had near-death experiences have done, then you would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is life after death, that Heaven is real, and that it's a paradise! It's where God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit live and reign. It's a world of love and brotherhood and happiness, where there is no more pain or sorrow or hunger or injustice, as explained in detail in the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22.



Your place in that world will depend on the choices you make in this life, in this world, and it's the same for everyone. Those who love God and try to live according to His plan, those who try to love their fellow man and do what's right, will be blessed with love and happiness and every other good thing in the world to come. On the other hand, those who are driven by hate and hurt others will be judged accordingly; they will suffer for their bad choices and lack of love (Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

If only you could believe in God's kingdom of love! If only you could believe that God is good and loving, that He wants to love, bless, protect, and take care of you, that He can solve all your problems, wash away all your tears, and give you joy and gladness in place of your sorrow. It's there, but you must want it and reach out and receive it.

It's so easy to make a choice for good. It's so easy to open up your heart to Jesus. It just takes a moment. It just takes a prayer. It just takes a

simple desire for that which is good and right and beautiful. If you need love, if you need peace of mind, just call on Jesus.

That moment of letting go of your ego is worth far more than whatever you think you stand to lose, because everything that you love and enjoy and want to do, everything your heart hungers for, can be found in Heaven.

Heaven is beyond your wildest expectations. It's very much like the world in which you now live, only much better. There's love and laughter and entertainment. There are also challenges, work to do, people to meet, and things to learn. It's a busy place and a busy life, like your present one, but the difference is that in everything you do, you will find joy and satisfaction and fulfillment.

Don't miss out! Reach out and receive God's love in Jesus today. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords, the very picture of God Himself, yet He stoops to love us. He is even willing to live within us, and to become one with us. What love! ←

Are you certain that you will go to Heaven when you die? You can be! All it takes is one prayer to open your heart to Jesus and receive Him as your Savior.

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming and dying for me so I can be forgiven my sins, experience Your love here and now, and have the promise of eternal life in Heaven. I open my heart and invite You in. Amen.

“VISITS TO HEAVEN”

Most people will agree with the statement “Every product of genius is the product of inspiration.” But where does inspiration come from?

One recognized genius, Akiane Kramarik (pronounced ah-KEE-ah-nah), an otherwise normal 13-year-old girl from Idaho in the U.S. northwest, says hers comes from God in the form of visions, dreams, and personal observation. Akiane is a self-taught artist whose deeply spiritual paintings have won her international acclaim as one of the top visual artists in the world. She is also a poet and a composer and speaks four languages. She began drawing at the age of four, around the time she began having profound spiritual experiences, which she called “visits to Heaven,” and described in detail to her then-atheistic mother. “I have been blessed by God,” Akiane says. “I want my art to draw people’s attention to God.” Other examples of Akiane’s art and poetry can be found at <http://www.artakiane.com>. ←

Jesus, the Missing Years

Acrylic on canvas, painted at age 10 (2004), 48” x 60”

Artist’s description: At 14, during one of his meditations, Jesus is talking with his father in heaven about the new earth, where only joy and peace would reign.



© 2004 Art Akiane, LLC. Used by permission

QUOTES ON HEAVEN

The best is yet to come

To get an idea of what Heaven will be like, take the happiest moment of your life and multiply it by a million.

You can't earn your way to Heaven, but you can store up treasures there by doing loving deeds now.

Everything in Heaven is going to be eternal: eternal life, eternal love, eternal you.

Those who love God never meet for the last time. If they don't meet again in this life, they will be reunited in Heaven.

In Heaven we won't just sit around on clouds and play harps, as some people imagine. Heaven will be full of action, excitement, discovery, learning, and best of all, love.

Heaven is where all wrongs will be made right.

In Heaven our tears will be wiped away. The sorrow, pain, and grief of life will be forgotten as if it were a dream.

Heaven will be our last move—no packing, no baggage, no long travel! It may be a long way, but it may be closer than you think!—*David Brandt Berg*

Heaven in all its glory could be summed up in one word: Christ. He is the light of creation, the joy of all life, and above all, the deepest love of our souls. To embrace Him is to embrace the meaning of life and the eternal power of God.—*Bettie J. Eadie, near-death survivor and author of Embraced by the Light*

Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be

able to see.—*Helen Keller, American author and activist, blind and deaf from infancy (1880–1968)*

The joys of Heaven will surely compensate for the sorrows of Earth. Hush, hush, my doubts! Death is but a narrow stream, and thou shalt soon have forded it. Time, how short—eternity, how long! Death, how brief—immortality, how endless!—*Charles Spurgeon, English preacher and author (1834–1892)* ←

FEEDING READING : THE SPIRIT WORLD

THE SPIRITUAL REALM IS AN UNSEEN DIMENSION THAT EXISTS CONCURRENTLY WITH THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
2 Corinthians 4:18
Colossians 1:16

THE SPIRIT WORLD IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO THE NATURAL, UNBELIEVING MIND.
John 3:12
1 Corinthians 2:14

GOD, ON OCCASION, LIFTS THE VEIL SEPARATING THE SPIRIT WORLD AND THIS EARTHLY PLANE.
Exodus 24:9–10
Exodus 33:17–23
Ezekiel 1:4–28
Isaiah 6:1–5
2 Kings 2:9–12
2 Kings 6:17
1 Corinthians 2:9–10
2 Corinthians 12:1–4
Revelation chapter 4

ANGELS ARE POWERFUL IMMORTAL BEINGS, CREATED TO ASSIST US.

Exodus 23:20
Psalm 34:7
Psalm 91:11
Zechariah 1:9
Acts 5:17–19
Acts 10:1–6

AFTER DEATH, BELIEVERS LIVE ON AND ARE ACTIVE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.
John 3:16
John 11:25–26
2 Corinthians 5:1,8
Hebrews 12:22–23

THE SPIRITS OF DEPARTED BELIEVERS SOMETIMES COMMUNICATE WITH THE LIVING.
Luke 9:28–31
Revelation 19:10

NOT EVERY COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD COMES FROM A GOOD SOURCE, SO THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS US TO "TRY THE SPIRITS."
2 Corinthians 11:14
Ephesians 6:12
1 John 4:1–4

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

OVERCOMING FEAR IN CHILDREN

Q : My daughter is almost three years old, and she's started something new: the "Mommy, I'm scared" phase. For example, she has become frightened of dogs—even our docile old family dog—and she asks questions like, "Does the dog have sharp teeth?" and "Do dogs eat little girls?" Even the sound of a dog barking in the distance is enough to send her running indoors. No amount of reassurance seems to help. How can I help my little girl overcome her fears?

A : **FEAR CAN BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR ANYONE** at any age, but especially for young children because their frame of reference is quite limited and they haven't yet developed the reasoning capability to determine which fears are rational and which are irrational. It takes prayer, patience, understanding, and wisdom on the part of parents to know how to help their children learn to deal with fear.

One point to keep in mind is that some fears are normal, rational, and healthy. Some are with us from birth, such as fear of loud noises and fear of heights. Other rational fears are learned through experience. For example, a child who has been

stung by a bee is likely to be afraid of bees. Other rational fears are learned through parental warnings, such as fear of hot stoves, sharp knives, and moving cars. On the other hand, irrational fears, such as fear of imaginary monsters, don't have any basis in the material world.

Many childhood fears fall somewhere between the rational and irrational, and they are usually linked to a particular phase of the child's mental and emotional development as he or she is exposed to new experiences and learns to reason and exercise imagination.

It's very important not to make light of children's fears, as that won't make them any less fearful; it will only add a level of shame and low self-worth to the difficulty they are already facing. To make them feel that it's wrong or that they're being bad when they're afraid, as though they had a choice in the matter, will only compound the problem.

The first step to helping children overcome their fears is to take the matter to Jesus in prayer. Ask Him to fill your child with the light of faith to overcome the darkness of fear. Also pray an upbeat prayer with the child, focusing on God's faithful, loving care. Because every child and every situation is different, it helps to ask Jesus to show you what to do to help your child overcome the fear. He can show you the cause of the problem, the best solution, and how to present it to the child. For example, He may show you to relate a similar situation that happened to you when you were small, when everything turned out fine. Or He may tell you to read your child a story in which someone overcame a similar fear.

He will probably also remind you to not expect overnight results. Weaning children from irrational fears takes time, but love and prayer never fail. ←

A Special Place

When I was there on Earth, I told those who loved Me that I was going before them to prepare a place for them, that where I am, they may be also. Since that time, I've been preparing a city for those who love Me to come to and live with Me. Since this place is for My special friends, I wanted it to be the best and most wonderful place there ever was, so I have created it to be perfect in every way. I have also made beautiful homes for them to live in, so they can be as comfortable as possible and have everything that their hearts could desire.

If you have received Me as your Savior, that makes you one of My special friends, and I have such a place for you. I have reserved a corner of Heaven just for you, a place where all your dreams will come true, where everything you've ever wanted will be right at your fingertips, where all those you love will be near you and you will be totally happy. This is a surprise that I have waiting for you when your earthly life is over. I can hardly wait to show you all that I've made for you and to enjoy the look on your face when I do.

You might feel you don't deserve these things. You might still be ashamed of things you've done, or you may have only just met Me, or you might feel like you haven't done much for Me. But don't worry about all that. Because I see your heart and I love you more than you could possibly know or understand, these things are My gift to you. When you give a gift to a loved one, you don't give it only because of what they do for you or because they deserve it; you give it because you love them. That's how I feel about you.

*dreams
come
true*