



March 2022

LETTER L-25

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LIFE AFTER DEATH

Books have been written by some who have experienced physical death and have returned to tell about what they found on the other side of the veil. While I personally, found some to be the products of vivid imaginations, some rang true. I was impressed when I read a captivating book called, “Proof of Heaven,” written by Dr. Eben Alexander, an American neurosurgeon who, in 2008, had a stirring and realistic recollection of his after-death experience. Because of the interest most of us have about the after-death experience, many studies have been compiled and written on this subject. Brother Preston Eby and other anointed ministries, have shared and written what they knew about it as well. From time to time, in my writings, I have mentioned some of my personal experiences, but now the Spirit moves me to recall a few that may be of interest at this time.

Several times, when I came close to death, the Lord raised me up in a miraculous way. But when I was six years old, the experience took me closer to death than at any other time. It was after two very painful surgeries for infected mastoids in both ears, and a long stay in the hospital, that the ear infection had turned into meningitis and the doctors could no longer do anything for me. It was in 1928 that Dr. Fleming invented the wonder drug Penicillin, but in 1936, when I needed it, it was not yet ready for use on patients. My father and mother were summoned to my bedside for a last time. I could see them leaning over the guard rails of my bed, as through small binoculars lenses, but I could not respond to them; I was in a coma. Soon I felt myself being propelled through a long tunnel. It was as though I was being sucked away by a gentle but very strong force. I was accelerating through this tunnel and began to hear voices like an harmonious choir welcoming me and cheering me on. I could see a bright light at the end of the tunnel, and I knew that soon I would be enveloped by that light. But suddenly, everything stopped and went dark. I was back in my bed, and felt the sensation of breathing again. I was not in the same bed and my parents were no longer there. And so it was not my time to reach that light at the other end of the tunnel.

Jesus teaches us a truth that we often forget, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”* (Jn.5:24) *“...he has already passed over out of death into life..”* (Ampl. Bible). When we hear the word of God and we believe that Jesus came from the Father, we come out of our graves of darkness and death, (our carnal minds), into the light of truth and new life. Hearing the Word is not just hearing with our natural ears, it is hearing with our hearts, and finding agreement with the Word. Those who turn away from God’s Word, have to build up a resentment against what they hear; as Pharaoh, they have to harden their hearts. They will often haughtily point out the “hypocrisy” that they see in Christians. Have you ever been talking to someone, and suddenly the Word of God comes up and they quickly change the subject. They are closing their ears to the Word, and hardening their hearts against God. It is when we “hear” and “receive” the Word in our hearts, that we rise in the faith, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Rom.10:17)

Very few who passed from this death unto life have experienced returning to their physical bodies. Jesus died physically and showed Himself in a totally new form which had the same marks as His previous body; He showed Philip the nail scarred hands, and the hole in His side. In my personal experience, I have never known anyone who was totally dead and lived again in the same body, but the Spirit has shown me, in dream form, several dear ones who had left this earth and are now well and very much alive on the “other side” of the veil. I like the expression, “other side of the veil” because of the symbols that God Himself gave us through the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The three compartments represent the journey that we take to return to our place in God, “body, soul and spirit.” The Outer Court being the realm of the body of flesh and blood. The inner Court, being the soul, and beyond the veil, the realm of eternal life in Christ.

I once dreamt that I was going to visit a dear friend and sister in the Lord. She had passed over being only 54 years old. In the dream *“I drove my car by a cemetery and parked. I walked across the width of the cemetery to the other side and went up a steep hill of dirt until I came to the front of a beautiful house somewhat like a castle. It was dark outside, but the house was flooded with light. I went in and saw my friend Sue. She was joyfully taking care of little children. They were all very happy. They could not see me. I turned around and walked carefully back the way I came.”* This dream clearly shows that some, as my friend Sue is, are very happy and occupied, while waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. In the meantime, they are clothed with new bodies, and recognizable.

Shortly after my brother-in-law Joseph passed over, I dreamt, *“I saw Joseph laying on his stomach in a morgue, then he was turned around on his back, and groomed by men surrounding his gurney. I could see that he was breathing and knew that he was alive.”* Joseph had come against my husband and I when we became Christians. Just before his sudden death, he had visited us but had remained stoic in his stand against God. Yet the dream shows the definite work of grace taking place after his death. Both dreams are spoken through simple symbols, that we might understand what is happening in the realm of Spirit.

After my 29 year old brother Jean-Pierre suddenly passed over, I saw him in a dream, *“He sat on the floor in the corner of a large empty room. He was sobbing inconsolably because he had lost his wife. He was dressed in a burgundy colored suit. I wanted to go to him, to hold him, but could not.”* My brother was a proclaimed atheist, but in the dream he wore a garment of life. Burgundy is the color of wine, which is the new life of the kingdom. However, he had to go through a period of wailing for his wife (flesh body in this case). He was so attached to his physical body that he could not bear his loss. Just before my mother-in-law passed over, I dreamt that she was going on a trip. She was boarding a large airliner. In her hand, she held a paper sack containing a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread. This dear lady was almost 100 years old. She loved God and prayed much, and now she was going to have communion with her Lord; the bread and the wine speak of her new body to come.

A month ago I dreamt, *“A very dear neighbor was leaving to go on a trip. She was going to a conference that I had once attended in the Carolinas. She was dressed in a pretty red outfit.”* Last week, this dear friend passed over. Although her life was exemplary, she had not been a professed Christian, but just before passing, she confessed her faith in Jesus. The dream showed that she was headed for the Carolinas, home of Billy Graham. She was going to hear the Gospel as it was preached by that great evangelist. Dreams speak in symbols so that we might easily understand them, and they definitely depict what takes place on the other side of this death.

In 1958, my husband and I had booked our passage to France on the brand new SS United States. It was the fastest ship afloat and we were looking forward to seeing my family after 14 years away. My father had been in good health and was very happy about our upcoming visit. About ten days before our departure, I dreamt that *“from my bed, I was looking at a large TV screen when I saw my father walking up to the front of the screen. He was dressed in black and escorted by two men in black. He stopped and looked straight at me. I said, Papa, what are you doing here? He said, “I have come to say goodbye.” I said, Oh, must you go? Yes, he said and the two men took him by the arms and gently turned him around. I looked as he walked away until I could see him no more.”* I had not yet come to know Jesus at that time, but a week later, when I received the telegram that my father had suddenly passed over from a blood clot to the heart, I understood why the dream. The men I saw were dressed in black, showing that my father was about to be escorted out of this world. When we got to Paris, we visited his freshly covered grave. Two years later, I turned my life over to the Lord. I have always felt that my father had some influence over that.

Among all my dreams, I cherish the one where I saw my dear husband Michael. He had already passed over for several weeks, when *“I saw him looking at me from behind a tall man. He was beaming as he held onto that man and the smile on his face was such as I had never seen before. He looked so joyful and content and in the dream, I knew that it was because he had found his new “buddy.”* Later the Spirit revealed that what he had found was the Lord as his new “body.” Michael had found Jesus as He is. He had found himself as one with Christ in a new body. These things can only be understood by the Spirit. Take heart dear brethren, we are on the threshold of that Day.

A brother in the Lord sent me this timely blessing from the pen of Preston Eby,
“Though we find deep satisfaction in the sweet communion we have with Christ, the secret converse we have together as He journeys with us through this wilderness, how oft our hearts yearn for HIS FULLNESS, when all veils and limitations of earth shall forever pass away! There are times when He makes Himself so real that our small capacity can hardly stand the strain of such revelations. It is as though we were bringing a pint cup to receive the waters of Niagara; even the earthen vessel is almost carried away! But the day is coming when our capacity shall be so enlarged, that we can receive the full unveiling of our Lord and the glories that are His; and He will give us such revelations of the Father that we shall enter into His joy and glory, for all that is His is ours in Him. Then we shall see Him as He is, and shall behold all things clearly, with nothing between to obscure the vision. This corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality. The Father’s name shall be written in our forehead.” End of quote. From: The Candlestick to the Throne, Part 62.

WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

There are many wonderful teachings available to us today, and we can all benefit by them, yet the words of life that quench the thirst of our inner being, and give us strength to move on, are still scarce. While we still need the pastoral admonitions and the evangelical stirrings, that are ministered to us by many faithful pastors and teachers, it is when the Word we receive, connects with the hunger in the depth of our souls that Light enters our consciousness, and dissipates the darkness. I pray that the Spirit of God will lead us to the Word we need today, and away from the agenda of zealous self-appointed prophets. It is not always the vessel we choose as our source, but it is the Word of life that we hear that imparts life. It often comes from ministries who are not afraid to cross the boundaries of man’s doctrines, such that have kept us in

the bondage of fear; fear of being rejected, by those we love, fear of being deceived, fear of losing our good reputations among brethren and more. However, this also is a part of “overcoming.” It is part of what the saints who have gone before us have taught us by example.

We never know how the Spirit will speak. The Bible records how God spoke to a prophet through the mouth of a donkey. He speaks through the mouth of those we least expect. Years ago I had gone to a chiropractor, and as I laid on the table he began to work on my neck when suddenly he stopped, and as if prophesying he said several times, “You must become vulnerable.” Later at home, I looked up the meaning of “vulnerable” and found that to be vulnerable is to be “opened to moral attacks and criticism, willing to allow one’s weaknesses and strengths to be shown; to be defenseless, exposed.”

Since that time I have found by experience, that indeed this is what we are when we follow the voice of the Lamb of God; we take on the nature of the defenseless lamb. We are led to the slaughter without resisting. This is the nature of the 144 thousands of Revelation 14, who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Jesus said, *“I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”* (Jn.10:11). Jesus followed as a Lamb with no defense, all the way the cross and to death. The Word that the Spirit gives us is changing us. We become unacceptable to those who follow the herd and the sophistication of the worldly church.

Sons of God are not to be exalted among men; they are to be vulnerable and opened to criticism and rejection, even as Jesus. Sons of God are not to be as the world; they are not to move in the rebellious and defiant spirit that prevails among many well-meaning Christians today. *“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well. For it is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.”* (I Pet.2:13-19)

I am well aware that this is not a popular message today, yet this is what I am clearly hearing from the Spirit at this time. The Spirit is grieved by the stubbornness that our old nature and our old ways exhibit. May we find His power to put down our own agenda, or any zealous man’s purpose, and to follow the Lamb all the way to the cross and beyond, to the glory of resurrection life. Who else could we possibly follow. *“Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”* (Jn.6:68).

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*