

Letter 1: Are we being watched by those who have crossed over through death?

What do you say about this? What are your thoughts? Today's society "advertises" hearing from the dead as if it should be expected and received as a standard or customary way of life. What would be normal about those who have no more breath and do not live with the living, to speak and share their hearts with us? Yet we know that those in Christ are truly living, even once they have left this earthly way of living, for God is the God of the living, not the dead.

Jesus said,

(31) "But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven't you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, (32) 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' So He is the God of the living, not the dead."

—Matthew 22:31-32 NLT

Yahweh knows those who have died and now live, but the way they live is not of the natural, where they are in the world with those who have yet to experience death. Now let me do this, where I explain the way the dead live. This refers to the place where one would go until the resurrection. Now, some do not believe King Jesus will raise the dead, but here is what the Word makes clear concerning this:

(13) And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. (14) For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will

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bring back with Him the believers who have died. (15) We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died. (16) For the Lord Himself will come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. (17) Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. (18) So encourage each other with these words.

—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT

Now, what does verse fourteen say? It says those who have died in Christ will return with Him. So where is King Jesus right now? Where did He go? John 14 tells us He went to prepare a place for those who are His (John 14:1-6). King Jesus is sitting at God's right hand (Romans 8:34). Those who have died in Christ are with Him, even at this moment (2 Corinthians 5:8). Yes, their bodies are buried under the earth, but their spirit is with God, waiting for the resurrection of the dead.

Those who choose to live without Christ and die in that state will be taken to the place of great torment until the resurrection. There will be a Great White Throne judgment, and anyone whose name is not found recorded in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). Upon death, a person can feel, taste, and recall. So much takes place in either location, whether it's Heaven or Hell, where this departed soul lives. But even so, they would not come and be released from that realm to visit and dwell in their previous way of living. This would imply that a soul who is in torment in Hell would freely be able to leave and visit those who are on the earth.

The ability to leave Heaven or Hell with free will is not the way God has the afterlife set up. Those who choose to stay in sin, where they say they would rather not have King

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Jesus live within, have chosen to receive their eternal placement, where they will spend eternity without Yahweh, who created a place of love, peace—free from all sin and pain. And those who would say Yahweh would not have a place to torment those He created would only understand the human way of looking at this.

Heaven and its dwelling exist, for the Word states such a place, including this eternal new Heaven and new Earth (Revelation 21:1-2). Now, some may wonder what spirit beings are with them. There are a few to consider. Angels minister to those who will inherit eternal life (Hebrews 1:14). There are also demons on this earth. Satan is on the earth and greatly influences much of what takes place in this fallen natural realm (2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 6:10-12).

But even so, Satan and his demons are on a short leash, including familiar spirits that choose to resemble a departed soul. Familiar spirits deceive many into thinking they are in reunion with a dead relative. But how is it that the demon knows so much about the life of the deceased person, or how is it that they can take on the looks of that individual? It is because they have been with the family as a way through the generations. These visits from demons do not mean the whole line in the family is influenced or even inflicted with demonic activity.

There is another Spirit called the Great Holy Spirit, and He is always watching. The eyes of the Lord search the earth, looking for those who are committed to Christ (2 Chronicles 16:9). The Spirit of Truth is looking to see if we have clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3-5). The Great Holy Spirit dwells in those who have received King Jesus into their heart as Lord and Savior (Romans 8:9-11).

Eternal life comes in the saving way of King Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). King Jesus gives living water to those who thirst for this, where you come and ask Him to live within (Romans 10:9-13). There is no need to fear death when you

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know the One who has the keys to death, the grave, and your true freedom. King Jesus has all authority in Heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18; Revelation 1:18). True life—eternal life—is found in King Jesus.

The Great Holy Spirit births forth spiritual life. You must be born again (John 3:3-8). Pray to King Jesus and let Him know you want to meet with Him through communion and fellowship. Start a new way with the One who is always with you, who will never leave you, nor will He forsake you. Come and drink. Salvation is freely given to all.

A Prayer of Salvation

Dear Jesus, I ask You to forgive me of all of my sins. I ask You to save me. I have turned my back on You, but now I come to You. Please cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Please heal me. Please heal me in every area of my life. Most importantly, please come to live within me. I want to know You. I want to have a relationship with You. I am Yours. I am Yours forever, my God, my King; and I choose to serve You for the rest of my days. Thank You, Lord, for dying for me and for saving me. I receive all that You have for me. I look forward to being with You forever. Amen.

(37) On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to Me! (38) Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (39) (When He said "living water," He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into His glory.)

—John 7:37-39 NLT

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