

Needing forgiveness in any meaningful sense of the word presupposes our guilt. (*Romans 3:10; 6:23*) "Conversion" means "a turning to God." Would you be willing to turn to God and Jesus Christ for your personal salvation from sin? Would you be willing to cry out to God from your heart for the forgiveness that you so desperately need? Go now to *Psalms 51* in the Bible and make it your sincere prayer.

Go directly to God through Jesus Christ, for it is He to whom you must be reconciled. (*2 Corinthians 5:20*)



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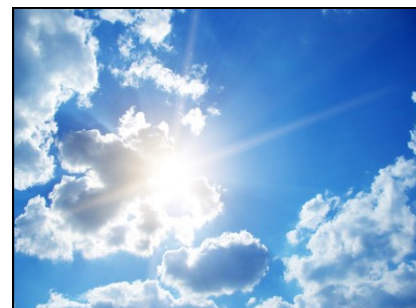
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## LOOKING INTO DEATH, ITS TRUE FACTS

### WHEN DO WE DIE?

It has been discovered through medical science that different parts of the human body die at different rates. The brain can die without oxygen as quickly as four minutes, kidneys thirty minutes, eyes six hours and fingernails live several days after a person has been declared clinically dead.

Some doctors now believe that death occurs when the brain dies and measures no brain waves for more than thirty minutes.

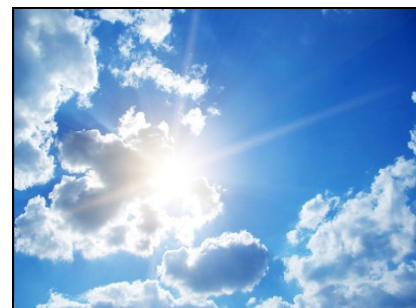


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A German doctor, Josef Issels told a story of a woman close to death that visited his clinic in Bavaria, Germany. As he was making his rounds he approached the woman's room and greeted her. The woman told him that she had left her body and had seen a woman in Room 12 who was writing a letter to her husband. She described in great detail the letter and its contents. Dr. Issels quickly walked to Room 12 and discovered to his surprise everything the woman had told him down to the last detail. As he returned to the woman's room to demand an explanation he discovered that she had died. If we are to believe the Biblical account of God's Word, we must conclude that the woman did indeed leave her body and described things that she had seen before departing from this physical realm.

A former policeman of the Louisiana State Police Department who had a near death experience stated, "The spirit, when removed from flesh, can see and communicate with other spirits. It can 'see' and 'hear' those things of the physical world also, but it cannot communicate with that world except through a physical body. Not only does the spirit of man need a physical body through which to communicate to the physical world, but so do all the spirit beings (demons and angels). The only way open for clear, concise communication from spirit beings to physical beings is through physical bodies... It is impossible for the soul or personality of any spirit to be reflected to this physical world except through a physical body."

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At death the spirit is released from the physical body and is no longer capable of contacting the physical world. Thomas Edison spent years trying to develop a telephone in which the dead and the living could communicate. He also developed a blueprint from which a model was made. The only problem was it didn't work.

So what is beyond the grave? For a true Christian the Bible says, *"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."* (2 Corinthians 5:8) For those who have not truly repented of their sins, the Bible gives us a glimpse of a most horrible condition. The story is found in *Luke 16:19-31* and told by Jesus about a rich man who had died. The odd thing about this story is that the dead man (although conscious in another realm) had a request for the living on earth. It involved the necessity of hearing and obeying God's Word. It was a request for someone to testify to the living and plead for them to repent. "Repentance" is a request for a man or woman to change their mind, to change their heart and turn to God from sin to receive His mercy and grace. The "good news" of the kingdom is that God accepts imperfect people through the blood of Jesus Christ. "Forgiveness" means that God is willing because of Jesus Christ death upon the cross, to pardon us, that is, to pass over our offenses without punishment and to let them go as if they had never been committed. (*Hebrews 8:12*) The scripture says, *"It's by God's grace we are saved."* (*Ephesians 2:5, 8-9*)

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