Are “Near Death Experiences” Real?

What happens after we die? You probably don’t want to think about this, but there’s 100% that you will die. One day your life on earth will come to an end and your spirit will leave your body to travel to one of two destinations in the next world. James 2:26 tells us that death occurs when the spirit leaves the body.

The Bible records a number of people who died and later came back to life. Jairus’ daughter died and when Jesus brought her back to life “her spirit returned to her” (Luke 8:55), which meant that her spirit had left her body. In John 11, Lazarus was dead for four days when Jesus raised him from the dead. His spirit went to the next world and came back into his body.

The apostle Paul testified that he went to heaven and said, “whether in the body or out of the body, I don’t know” (2 Cor. 12:2). Many Bible scholars believed he died when he was stoned at Lystra, which may have been when his spirit went to heaven. The people who stoned him dragged his body out of the city because they believed that he was dead (Acts 14:19-20). Whenever it happened, Paul got a glimpse of heaven and then God brought him back to life.

Many people today are claiming that they have died and left their bodies, and then have come back to life. We believe that some of these “near death experiences” are real, where God allowed them to see heaven or hell, and then sent them back into their bodies so they can testify about the reality of the afterlife. However, we also realize that many people are falsely claiming they had near death experiences, sharing bizarre stories that don’t line up with the Scriptures. Satan wants to discredit the valid experiences through people who fabricate stories.

Ian McCormack’s Near Death Experience

Ian McCormack was an atheist who didn’t believe in heaven or hell. He was scuba diving at night when was stung by the deadly box jellyfish. On the way to the hospital he called out to God to be saved just minutes before he died. Ian is now a pastor in London, England.

Watch this amazing 90-minute video of Ian McCormack’s death experience.