



Is God Fun?

Believe the Love & the Joy!

September 4, 2022 – Part 7

Psalm 16 ¹¹ Because of you, I know the path of life, as **I taste the fullness of joy in your presence.**
At your right side **I experience divine pleasures forevermore!** TPT

...An astonishing love. A love beyond my wildest imagining. This love knew every unlovable thing about me – the quarrels with my stepmother, my explosive temper, the sex thoughts I could never control, every mean, selfish thought and action since the day I was born – and accepted and loved me just the same.

When I say He knew everything about me, this was simply an observable fact. For into that room along with His radiant presence – simultaneously, though in telling about it I have to describe them one by one – had also entered every single episode of my entire life. Everything that had ever happened to me was simply there, in full view, contemporary and current, all seemingly taking place at that moment.

How this was possible I did not know... ..Transfixed, I stared at myself standing at the blackboard in a third-grade spelling class. Receiving my Eagle badge in front of my scout troop. Wheeling Papa Dabney onto the verandah at Moss Side...

There were other scenes, hundreds, thousands, all illuminated by that searing Light, in an existence where time seemed to have ceased. It would have taken weeks of ordinary time...

Every detail of twenty years of living was there to be looked at...

Life After Life

...Beauty surpassing earth's favorite vacation destination, people alive and active in a world not unlike ours, yet so infused with such exhilarating love, purpose, and belonging that it made earth seem merely a showdown of the real Life to come. As the loving Being of Light sent him back after his tour of another dimension, George said, "From that loneliest moment of my existence I had leaped into the most perfect belonging I had ever known. The Light of Jesus had entered my life and filled it completely, and the idea of being separated from Him was more than I could bear."

After being clinically dead for nine minutes, George found himself back in his earthly body, but with a sheet over his head. Dr. Francy signed a notarized statement of his death that George would later produce whenever he talked about his experience.

...In *Return from Tomorrow* he says, "I have no idea what the next life will be like. Whatever I saw was only – from the doorway, so to speak. But it was enough to convince me totally of two things from that moment on. One, that our consciousness does not cease with physical death – that it becomes in fact keener and more aware than ever. And two, that how we spend our time on earth, the kind of relationships we build, is vastly, infinitely more important than we can know."

God Is Love

Have you ever wondered how there could be so many love songs? I've come to believe that every form of love we experience on earth, no matter how intense, is merely a drop in the ocean of love God created you and me to experience. We can't get enough of love because ours always falls short of what we crave.

...A person was standing in front of me, but different from any person I'd ever known. I heard His voice – it was the same voice I heard years before. Though I didn't know who it was then [while still in Palestine], He said over and over to me when my Muslim husband was beating me and threatening my

life, “leave the darkness for the light.” [Now] He said in Arabic, “I am the truth, the life, and the way, and no one comes to the Father except by Me.” His voice was like rushing waters, powerful and soothing at the same time. The minute He said, “I am the truth,” I knew immediately it was Jesus. He didn’t say, “I am Jesus,” but every fiber of my being knew who He was. I had never read the Bible before, but somehow I knew what Jesus was saying to me was in the Bible. I was so consumed by His presence that I dropped to my knees and looked up at Him. He is so glorious, so beautiful. All light inside of Light. I said, “Lord! You are Lord!” He said, “Yes, I am Jesus, the One you denied. The One you said is not the Son of God. I came to save you, to make you a happy person. You don’t have to do anything, just know that I love you.” I said, “That’s it?” He said, “Yes, believe in Me.” It was like I went to school and studied everything in one day. All of a sudden Jesus made sense to me....He got so close that there was too much light to even see the color of His eyes. It was not like looking at any human being. Somehow with His being and His voice came light. A huge light. An overwhelming light. He was talking to me, but at the same time I was seeing Heaven right before my eyes....He didn’t preach to me; He was just talking to me like another person, but with a beautiful and strong voice. It was loving, and sweet like honey.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

God is light and love. God is also just, but his justice is his loving response to evil when it hurts the people He loves. God is love. It’s what the prophets revealed. It’s what NDErs experience. Just think: love is intrinsic to God, so everything in the created universe exists because of perfect love, including us. As my friend Michael Warden explains, “Like an eagle is made to soar the heights, we were made for God’s love. Love is our native atmosphere. Yet in a fallen world, we have been separated from love. What we experience as ‘normal life’ is anything but. We are eagles chained to the earth, longing to soar.” That’s why NDErs never want to leave the love of God once they experience it.

One man from Moody’s study made it emphatically clear in no uncertain terms that he *never* wanted to leave the Being’s presence. Even a mother of young children whom she loved more than anything expressed, with difficulty, that being in the presence of this light was so wonderful, “I really didn’t want to come back. But...I knew that I had a duty to my family. So I decided to try to come back.”

The first four of the Ten Commandments were about loving God. He wants to be our first priority, and He’s jealous for our love, not for His sake, but for ours – all other things we put first in our lives make bad gods that will let us down. We were made for God’s love first. His love rightly orders all other loves.

Eben Alexander says the central message he received could be summed up, “*You are loved.*” Or, to simplify even further: love. Dr. Alexander’s experience taught him “none of us are ever unloved. Each and every one of us is deeply known and cared for by a Creator who cherishes us beyond any ability we have to comprehend. That knowledge must no longer remain a secret.”

Imagine a love so great, no earthly love even compares – and better still, all earthly loves find new depth. He wants us to know how much He love us, and He wants to know, “Do you love Me?”

What if we became people who have a vision for the ultimate Life to come? What if it’s true that this life is merely a tiny taste on the tip of our tongues of the feast of Life yet to come? What if Heaven is going to be better than your wildest dreams? And what if how you live really does matter for the Life to come?

1 John 4 ¹⁶ We have come into an intimate experience with God’s love, and we trust in the love he has for us. TPT