

Today we want to address a topic with which some of you may be unfamiliar. You have likely seen some TV show, movie, magazine article or web posting about some form of communication with dead people. The popular idea that people hang around and that we can communicate with them is aided by media programming, people's stories, and even the teaching of several major religions. But it is all "necromancy", forbidden in Deut. 18 with the other occult practices and engagement with devils. This covers all practices having to do with trying to communicate with the "dead".

NONE of this is possible. Dead people go to be with the Lord in Heaven or to Hell and stay there. Heb. 9:27, and others) Period. That is Bible. Anything else leads to confusion, seduction, spiritual adultery (engagement with entities not GOD), and the likelihood of spiritual and emotional damage, sometimes permanent.

But the idea persists, and is giving credibility in the minds of the people by some major religions. We will look at that in the next lesson, along with the ways people seek this. Today, we will look mainly at the experiences that people don't necessarily seek, or do not understand enough to know how they invite them. Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, and other holidays with intense family meaning attached are times when ungrounded people may be more vulnerable than usual to devilish deception of this type.

How common is this? Do we see any evidence that people actually experience this?

From an article in Psychology Today by Worth Kilcrease MBA, MA, LPC,

The Journey Ahead: Is It Real, or Is It Hallucination?

Extraordinary experiences: are they real or are they hallucinations? Posted Aug 11, 2008

*A common, but often overlooked, aspect of mourning the death of a loved one isthe spontaneous, externally generated contact of the mourner by the deceased loved one or a divine being. Are the contacts real, or are they hallucinations? For those who have not had the experience, these contacts are, at best, the result of an overactive imagination or, at worst, hallucinations. However, for **approximately 70 million** mourners who have had them, these contacts—or Extraordinary Experiences (EEs)—are real and comforting.*

What are Extraordinary Experiences?

Louis LaGrand, who has studied Extraordinary Experiences for over 25 years, has cataloged them into 14 categories:

1. intuitively sensing that the deceased person is present (sometimes accompanied by a telepathic or mental message);

2. a visual apparition of or "seeing" the loved one;

3. hearing the voice of the person;

4. smelling an essence that is closely associated with the loved one, such as a particular cologne, pipe smoke, perfume, etc.;

5. feeling as if being touched, including being kissed or embraced, by the person;

6. noticing birds or animals behaving in an unusual way that associates them with the deceased;

7. noticing a symbolic representation such as "cloud writing" or an object that is closely associated with the deceased;

8. a third-party experience where a message comes through another person who has had the EE;

9. a fourth-party experience where a message comes through two other people;

10. having a vivid, unforgettable visitation dream;

11. seeing the loved one during an out-of-body experience;

12. witnessing a psi kappa event (a moving object, a clock stopping or starting at the moment of death, the flicker of lights or other electronic equipment turning on and off at a significant moment);

13. synchronicities (meaningful coincidences) that couple the deceased with an unexpected physical event; and

14. crisis apparitions or sense of presence of the loved one just before the survivor is notified of the death.

Of these different categories, the two most common ones are the feeling of presence and visitation dreams.

What are the "messages" and what do they mean?

52The impact of these messages can be enormous and life-changing. The two most frequent themes that
53 mourners report after having had an EE are that they are **no longer afraid of death and that they will be**
54 **reunited with their loved one.**
55 Worth Kilcrease MBA, MA, LPC,
56 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3165003/>. In an article published on the National Institute of
57 Health website, several studies tallied that **35 to 62 percent** of the people responding said they had some form of
58 contact with dead people.

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60 -We see from these above articles, citing much research and many surveys, that a large number of
61 people report these experiences. Why should we take note? Because Satan cruelly, but effectively, makes
62 spiritual victims of the bereaved by this method. And the numbers are too large to ignore.

63 -**These ideas are contrary to the Gospel!** The lost man needs to fear death, hell and God. (Matt. 10:28)
64 And there is NO assurance of reuniting with loved ones unless they are saved. The impact, as with ALL ghostly
65 activity, is to leave people falsely believing something contrary to the Word of God about death and eternity.

66 -That's what devils do. They do it to everyone whom they can. Unless you are saved and grounded in the
67 Word of God, you may even fall prey to some "soft" idea that somehow this can happen. That puts you in
68 danger of further attack. And the lost person has no defense, and the Devil knows that. He can make it far less
69 likely for someone to believe the Gospel, which is one of his goals.

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71 An example of an encounter with an apparition is found in Job 4 when Eliphaz relates a nightmarish
72 manifestation of a spirit. There is disagreement as to whether this experience was from God or Satan. My
73 opinion is that it likely was not from God for several reasons.

- 74 1. The spirit used a devilish *method of secrecy* (vv. 12-13)
- 75 2. It delivered a deceptive *message of seduction* (v. 16, a mysterious, undefined specter)
- 76 3. It was a discouraging *meaning of despair*. (vv. 20:21, a message of destruction without hope)

77 Lying spirits, fallen angels all, follow this pattern. Their messages are always *secret; hidden; attained by*
78 *ritual; by special revelation or discernment—the basic meaning of "occult"*.

79 The messages, even when containing some kernel of truth, always twist, change, question, or alter the Word
80 of God. Examples: Satan with Jesus, the serpent with Eve, and the lying spirits in the Old Testament

81 The purpose of these encounters is always to leave doubt, damage, derangement, discouragement, despair
82 and death in their wake. The effect sometimes is to magnify truth into an insurmountable burden. Sometimes it
83 amplifies a misappropriated truth into a tool of destruction, different from its original intent.

84 There are examples of spirit activity in the Bible, and here are a few along the lines of deception:

- 85 a. 2 Chron. 18:¹⁹ And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at
86 Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. ²⁰ Then there
87 came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him,
88 Wherewith? ²¹ And he said, I will go out, and be a **lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets**. And the Lord
89 said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.
- 90 b. Is. 19:14: he LORD hath mingled a perverse **spirit** in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in
91 every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.
- 92 c. **Revelation 16:14**: For they are the **spirits** of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the
93 earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

94 What are possible explanations for these experiences?

- 95 1. Hallucinations
- 96 2. Intense memories
- 97 3. Provided by external entities, that is spirits
- 98 4. Angelic? No.
- 99 5. Demonic spirits doing their work? Yes. Some may doubt, challenge, or be appalled at the logical
100 conclusion that there is so much demonic activity toward human beings, but the Bible tells us so.

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One of the response correlations in that NIMH article that intrigued me was that the more religious the respondents were and the more often they attend religious services, the less their anxiety about death and the incidence of these extraordinary experiences. Of course, we know that not all religious people believe on Christ for salvation, but all who DO believe on Christ are normally going to be less afraid.

- Satan and demons are interested in getting at God through people, as well as making victims out of people. They want mental health disturbed, spiritual health destroyed, cleanness dirtied, wholeness shattered, emotional peace perturbed. Their goal is damage, destruction, and finally, death.
- They will attack at the moments of greatest vulnerability, and will rarely pass up the golden opportunity provided by the death of a loved one. For the lost and ungrounded Christians, the emotion of missing the departed can be strong enough to alter judgment.
- They know that a manifestation of some kind, especially an intelligent one customized with private knowledge, can sometimes entice a victim into contact, permission, or engagement.
- The entities involved present a lie about death by their very activity. The messages they bring contradict the Bible, lead to unbiblical conclusions, and leave permanent spiritual harm.

Going against God’s word starts with doubt. Believing the devil makes you vulnerable to his predations and open to God’s chastening. To be unprotected from this “roaring lion” is extremely dangerous.

What is the solution?

1. BELIEVE the Bible and trust God on the subject. Take your comfort about departed loved ones from the BIBLE. If they were believers, we will see them. IF they were not, there is nothing that can be done about that now.
2. Reflect and share the joy of heaven, with certainty and hope. ***(1 Thess. 4:13:...that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. v. 18: Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.*** God is love. He is truthful, straightforward, and brings life and light, not confusion, darkness, and death. We know that we’ll be together again with the believers of all the ages Heaven in the ages to come.
3. Live here and let the dead be where they are: out of range of our human interaction.
4. Remember that the death of a loved one can be devastating to anyone. Weak Christians may falter. Unbelievers especially are untethered to the spiritual anchor of Christ. Some are shaken deeply, and emotional vulnerability can linger a long time. We can offer concern, sympathy, and true comfort.
5. There may be a chance, through genuine concern, to turn their hearts toward the Lord and His real comfort.
6. Submit to God, and resist the Devil!

Jesus is the Victor over death, the Devil, Hell, and sin. Our safety and security are in Him. We need not fear. Let’s make it clear to the lost that we have a better Hope.