

Can the Dead Communicate with Us?

<u>Isaiah 8:19</u>: (NASB) When they say to you, consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter, should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?



Our shared human experience is linked by extreme grief at the loss of a loved one. COVID-19 has unexpectedly killed millions of people around the world, often with no time opportunity for meaningful closure. When a child dies, or a loved one dies tragically or simply passes away from sickness or old age, we want to know, where are they? Are they hurting? Are they okay? Our emotional devastation can cause a desperate search for assurances that they are in a good place. The urge to communicate with the dead through a medium or psychic has been around since ancient days. But have the dead found a way to communicate directly with us? Could they be reaching out to us using common things like butterflies, coins or birds? How should we handle such a tempting and comforting idea?

Life is sacred and the loss of life is tragic.

In the beginning, the beautiful gift of life was compared with the consequences of disobedience:

<u>Genesis 2:15-17</u>: (Young's Literal Translation) ¹⁵And Jehovah God taketh the man, and causeth him to rest in the garden of Eden, to serve it, and to keep it. ¹⁶And Jehovah God layeth a charge on the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; ¹⁷and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die.

- · God gave man the perfect environment conducive for living
- Man was tasked with its care and upkeep
- Potential consequences for disobedience were immediately present
- The consequence for disobedience would have an immediate effect (dying thou dost die)



We chose the Youngs Literal translation for this scripture. When it comes to the consequence of disobedience, it does not say *or in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die* as the King James Version reads; it says, *dying thou dost die*. In other words, a process begins that is not going to stop.

We will share some audio clips from Bill Guggenheim, considered to be the "father of after-death communications (ADC) research." He claims to have had several experiences with people who died contact him, including his daughter who died from suicide. He interviewed others with similar experiences and wrote a book on the subject.

We will look into "spontaneous" ADCs now and "induced" ADCs in the next half of this episode. We are going to listen to Bill explain what a spontaneous ADC is from an interview on YouTube.



(CQRewind)) What is an ADC, Bill Guggenheim, After-Death Communications

• An after-death communication or ADC is a spiritual experience that occurs when a person is contacted directly and spontaneously by a family member or a friend who has died. It's a direct experience because no third parties are involved. There are no psychics, mediums, therapists, hypnotists, rituals or devices ever involved with this. An ADC is a spontaneous event because our deceased ones always choose when, where and how they will contact us - meaning, we may want them to come to us, we can ask them to, we can do some other things for that, but we can't make it happen. We can want it to happen, but it's not something we can control. ADCs can happen anytime and anywhere. It's a matter of being open to having it occur.

He mentioned several things we will be taking issue with as we describe this whole phenomenon.

What piqued our interest in this topic overall was an article from CNN.com about shared grief and trauma from mass deaths.

(Source: CNN.com, John Blake, They lost their loved ones to COVID. Then they heard from them again. June 20, 2021) "The 1918 influenza epidemic sparked a 'spiritualism craze' as Americans turned to séances and Ouija boards to contact departed loved ones. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks came a wave of people reporting sightings of and even conversations with those who had been snatched from their lives. When a tsunami struck Japan in 2011, killing at least 20,000 people, so many inhabitants of Ishinomaki reported seeing their loved ones appear that a book and a documentary were made about this city of wandering ghosts. These experiences ...of 'after-death communications' ...occur across cultures, religious beliefs, ethnicities and income levels. Many of these encounters occur in the twilight state between sleeping and waking, but others have been reported by people who were alert."

Some of our listeners who understand our beliefs on death may be confused as to why we are talking about this. Stay with us because this is a fascinating subject, and IT DOES NOT GO AGAINST OUR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH.



Let's break down this idea of after-death communications:

- There is no good number on how many people have experienced an ADC. It is at least tens of thousands - some say tens of millions.
- ADCs do not use a medium or psychic to communicate with the dead they have essentially cut out the middleman.
- This has given people great relief and healing. Those who have had this
 experience seem sincere and honest.
- Spontaneous ADCs often happens during liminal or the in-between state of sleep and consciousness. It is described as more vivid than a dream and the memory generally lasts a lifetime. It is not something forgotten in 24 hours like most dreams.

ADC is a different kind of experience. What do we do with it? We will look at it logically and scripturally to see what we can learn or discard.



Let's go back to Bill as he tells us about the two parts of grief.

The two parts of grief, Bill Guggenheim, After-Death Communications

• I found that there are two parts of grief. First of all, the death of anyone we love - whether it's a child, a spouse, a parent, whoever - I call it an emotional amputation. It's just as though an arm or leg or some part of us is just amputated. Something's missing, and I don't mean just a phantom limb. I mean, it's much more than that. It's real. And we mourn that, we grieve that. And we wonder, how are they? First of all, in our culture, do they still exist? Is there a life after death, or a heaven or a hell, or a this or a that? And the other part is that sense of something not being there. Just the presence of somebody.

It is interesting that he referred to it as an amputation, which is a good example. He also talked about phantom pain. When speaking to someone who has had a limb amputated, they will tell you about the fingers hurting, even when there are none. How can that possibly be? Hang onto that thought because it will help as we try to understand this phenomenon.

Let's take a scriptural look at grief. Grief is universal. No one does well with unexpected death. We mentioned COVID-19 earlier and the millions of people who died unexpectedly. The Scriptures show us it is hard.

Joseph's brothers brought Jacob his son Joseph's tunic to create the illusion that Joseph was dead.

Listen to how Jacob responds to seeing this son's tunic:

Genesis 37:33-35: (NASB) ³³Then he examined it and said, It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces! ³⁴So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son. So his father wept for him.



Jacob was outwardly and inwardly wearing his grief. He felt like he would mourn until his death. Is that not the experience we are talking about? The sudden loss of life is just too hard to bear. The Scriptures show us that losing our loved ones, and in this case believing we lost a loved one, has from the beginning caused humanity deep sorrow and grief.



As humans, we want to search out ways of relieving the pain of loss, but often the agony is too intense to overcome, and we feel stuck and hopeless.

The idea of after-death communications is a BIG idea that seems to change lives - what do we do with it?



Why is dealing with death so difficult? What makes us so dramatically aware of this loss?

When you compare the way humanity manages death with any other living creature, it becomes apparent that our reasoning capacity sees the event of death as life-altering. In most cases, death feels like it should not belong. We build monuments and memorials. We cherish memories. We hold on to belongings. What are we doing? We are striving to keep that loved one alive because the loss hurts too much.

Why are we like this? According to the Bible, we were created to live, thrive, and care for that which God gave us:

Genesis 1:27-30: (NASB) ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. ²⁹Then God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food; and it was so.

God created humanity and placed them on the earth. He lavished Adam with these gifts of life, care, nourishment and work to do to keep things in order. Man was wired for a vibrant, life-provoking existence. God's design for life was not only for life, but it was also for the purpose of harmony with and flourishing in the image of the Creator Himself. Let us make man in Our image. "Lifegiving" - this is in the image of God. This is how humanity is wired. Death is not natural. We do not want it. We do not



like it. We want it to go away and when it happens, especially unexpectedly, we get taken aback. And sometimes we just do not know what to do.

(1) What do their messages say? Bill Guggenheim, After-Death Communications

• Now some of these are stated verbally; others are implied, so it may be either way. They are saying, I'm happy. Don't worry about me. Don't grieve for me, everything will be all right. Go on with your own life. So, they're saying we don't have to be concerned about them. Our grief is our missing of them. The empty place next to us - the empty place at the table. That's probably the most poignant.

Nearly 100 percent of the spontaneous ADCs followed this positive pattern. Suicide is difficult because the living person carries guilt that they could not intervene and prevent it, as well as anger at the person who took their own life. Bill Guggenheim states that if the person died by suicide, the ADC message will inevitably be, *I am sorry*; please forgive me.

It is important for us to keep in mind that the messages are almost always positive as we delve into figuring out what an ADC really is. We believe the Scriptures tell us what this really is, and we believe that science also backs up what the Scriptures say.



Let us put this in order. The bottom line is we strive to keep our loved ones alive. That is human nature. The question is, are they really alive after death? To find that out, let's go back to the consequence of disobedience for Adam, and therefore for all humanity. It was plainly and forcefully stated from the start, *Dying thou shalt (dost) die*. Sin was committed and the consequences were activated.

We do not need to rely on just those four words, dying thou shalt (dost) die. We can look at the actions God states will happen as the consequences of sin:

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field;

God told Adam and Eve that they will no longer have the wonderful garden He prepared for them. They would have to work the ground from scratch, and it would not be easy.

Then God described what would happen to Adam:

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

...till you return to the ground - because you were taken from it. I will return you to where you came from. You - mankind - will return to the elements - not just your body - you! Death is defined here as simply going back to the pre-life state, the absence of life. We return to the dust of the earth.

No matter what we are seeing or experiencing with an ADC, it absolutely is NOT someone who died and who is now seemingly more alive than ever.

To walk through the detailed scriptural explanation of death, please see the following two episodes.



Biblically defining the nature of the soul



We are making strong statements about life and death and defining death as the absence of life. Yet, people are experiencing after-death communications. How do we understand this? We will soon see there are areas to avoid and things we should welcome.



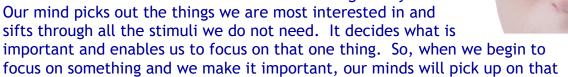
(1) Visitation by symbols, Bill Guggenheim, After-Death Communications

• A very large category - and this is where a lot of books are being written right now - are about signs and symbols. Almost anything can be a sign. Seeing a rainbow, seeing butterflies, birds; you name it - finding pennies, quarters, dimes. If you read about these and if you ask for this kind of sign - let me know you still exist, that you're okay - you start to begin opening up. It's just that we're so closed as a society to the possibility because the skeptics, cynics, agnostics and atheists have told us this is all there is. There's nothing more; they don't exist.

These signs commonly include certain colored feathers, repeating numbers, and birds like doves and cardinals. In the CNN article quoted previously, a husband who lost his wife saw about a dozen streetlights glow purple on his early morning trip to work. It was the same route she took on her final drive to the hospital. Purple was her favorite color, so he has decided this is a message from her even though the city said it was just a defective batch of lights that they will change when they burn out. But this comforts him. How does the brain's "reticular activator" come into play here?

The reticular activator is an amazing phenomenon of the brain, and the brain is full of amazing phenomena! This is the part of the brain that when you are interested in something, you suddenly notice everything about it. For example, let's say we are looking to buy a new car and want to buy a blue Subaru. As we drive down the street, all of a sudden there are blue Subarus everywhere! We never noticed a blue Subaru in our entire life until we decided we are looking to buy one. Our mind picks out the things we are most interested in and sifts through all the stimuli we do not need. It decides what is

and will help us by eliminating distractions.



Losing a loved one is something important and troubling. Our mind will make this a priority, overlooking 55 other details to pick out that one. This is the reticular activator at work, helping us to make sense of and deal with our loss. To do that, the mind might need to go over unresolved issues, saying goodbye, making sure they know we loved them, resolving arguments, etc.

We do NOT believe these ADCs are a spiritual experience. Mr. Guggenheim feels they are, but we are going to show why we disagree.

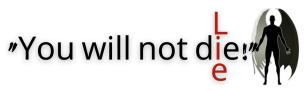
How did something so simple and important as obeying our Creator's rules become messed up so easily?

Easy things become complicated when deception comes into play:

Genesis 3:2-7: (YLT) ²And the woman saith unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we do eat, ³and of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God hath said, ye do not eat of it, nor touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent saith unto the woman, Dying, ye do not die, ⁵for God doth know that in the day of your eating of it—your eyes have been opened, and ye have been as God, knowing good and evil.







This scripture is why SATAN IS CALLED THE "FATHER OF LIES." Who are we going to believe - God the Creator, or Satan, the prince of darkness and evil who said you will not die?

The penalty for sin is death. We cannot be dead and be more alive than we were before death! No matter what kind of person the deceased was - good, bad, religious, atheist, they always give the same answer; *I'm fine, do not worry about me...* attitude. This is a very predictable answer from the "other side." But is it truly from the "other side" or is it from something within ourselves? We believe it is not a spiritual experience. We will develop this as we go.

Bill Guggenheim was asked if he has ever heard of a negative or frightening ADC and his answer was no, except for someone who misinterpreted the experience. This happened with someone with religious conviction who commanded the deceased person to go away. He did not say which religion, but he continued with this story:

(1) What about Jesus, Bill Guggenheim, After-Death Communications

The belief is, the misunderstanding is, that we're conjuring these spirits, our children, or whoever it is, back. We're not. We're allowing them to come back. They choose to come back. All we have to do is be open to them. And we may want it to happen, but we can't make it happen. In the Bible, in Corinthians, there are the nine gifts of the holy spirit, one of which is the discernment of spirits. It doesn't say only evil spirits. It just says discernment of spirits. And I'll go a step further, the most famous ADCs in history are the appearances Jesus made following his crucifixion; it's well known; up to Mary Magdalene (mispronounced) afterwards, the apostles and on up to 500 people. I think what was a large part of the initial attraction of Christianity at that time was the fact that he was able to show himself afterwards, encourage his own mission.

This makes us super uncomfortable that he is quoting Scripture in this context. And he is not quoting Scripture even remotely correct! To have the audacity to go to a book you do not understand to try and prove the point that you are trying to make is a ridiculous thing. The Bible is sacred, and it is unconscionable to say that Jesus appeared in the workings of people's minds when he was actually risen from the dead by God Almighty. He was not some apparition - HE WAS THERE.

This helps us to understand where this ADC perspective comes from. They are taking what is a natural working of the human mind and making it paint a picture of spirit visitation that it is not. This is dangerous.





Are we saying that after-death communications are not real?

YES. WE <u>DO NOT BELIEVE</u> THAT AFTER DEATH COMMUNICATIONS ARE DEAD PEOPLE COMING TO COMMUNICATE WITH LIVE PEOPLE. However, we understand that the people who are having these



experiences are having real experiences. We ARE questioning their interpretation of what is happening.



If we were to experience a spontaneous ADC, is it a sin? What are we supposed to do - engage with the sensation or shut it down?

The Bible tells us not to seek out spirits. However, remember most of these ADC experiences come to people during that

liminal dreaming state between sleep and waking - you are not fully awake.

Rick's wife Trish had a very vivid DREAM in that liminal state where she had a conversation with her dad who had died a couple of years before. Why did she

have this? BECAUSE SHE MISSED HIM. She did not want him to be gone. And in this dream (which was so vivid, she can still remember it), he said, "You know I'm not really here, right?" She wanted him to be back and was struggling with his loss - this dream helped her mind to eventually work through her grief over time. Recognize



that these experiences are our minds looking for their own way through issues we are struggling with at this point. That is the best way to describe these phenomena. Our brains are incredible; they continue to work on things we are uncomfortable with even when we are not consciously directing them to do so.

However, there are potentially millions of people who, because of spontaneous ADCs, believe Satan's lie that *ye shall not surely die*. They believe their beloved dead are not dead. If people do not die, there is no reason for the ransom of Jesus and our resurrection - the Scriptures get perverted. The Bible teaches that the vast majority of mankind are in their graves, waiting for a resurrection on earth. They do not go to hell or heaven immediately upon death which is a misconception of many Christians. Study the scriptural reasoning with the following two episodes:



Uncovering who goes to heaven and what happens to planet Earth



In looking at these ADC experiences, we can see that Satan and the fallen angels might have a role. Does the evil spirit world have a hand in these after-death communications?

If these experiences pervert the Scriptures, they cannot be from God. Or is it always just our brain causing the ADC experience?



If this happens WITHOUT US LOOKING for it, we believe it is our brain working out troubling issues.

But when we go looking for answers from the dead, when we want to have a communication, does my deceased husband or wife think I should buy this other house? - this is where Satan and the fallen angels thrive.



This is dangerous because we are looking into darkness for something that does not exist, but the darkness will show us a way to believe it. This is where we need to be careful and stay far away. It is inappropriate and it sends us to dark places.

We will define the differences in the next segment.



Our deep attachment to our lost loved ones can bring overwhelming desires for closure and continued attachment. These can be healthy and should be encouraged within the context of what we know to be true.

We need to know what is true according to Scripture.

It gets sensitive now. While the Bible speaks about death as lifelessness, we need to understand what people do experience.

We have considered after-death communications with biblical reasoning.

Can we explain ADCs with human logic as well?

While we always want to have a biblical foundation for our thinking, plain and simple logic is also needed. As we now move to observe the world of induced after-death communications, we will see a powerful pattern of logic - not spirituality - develop. The question is, where will that logic lead?

Eve

Movement

Desensitization

Reprocessing



EMDR therapy reconnects parts of the brain so we have the ability to take steps forward.

(Source: https://www.brainline.org/) Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy (EMDR) is a form of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy specifically developed for reducing the power of traumatic memories. A trained therapist will guide you to think about a trauma while moving your eyes back and forth, left to right. Over time, this will help your brain reprocess the memories so that they no longer cause as much pain.





I have personal experience with EMDR. My wife Trish went through EMDR after being robbed at the bank she worked at twice within 13 days by the same guy. My daughter Amy went through EMDR after she was raped at age 15. Both got their lives back due to this therapy. I understand it because I watched it happen at two different times in my life. I saw the power of the human mind.

Allan L. Botkin, PsyD, accidentally discovered in 1995 that he could use a non-standard form of EMDR to *induce* an ADC. Let's hear him explain an "induced after-death experience," or IADCs[®]:

(I)) IADC® vs. ADC experiences, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV

• People who have researched spontaneous ADCs, like the Guggenheims and so on, some of them are kind of slow to accept what I do because they believe that "real" ADCs are like gifts from heaven. That they are something we have no control over. You're either lucky to have one or unlucky and you don't have one. Actually, my response to that is in IADC[®], we don't directly induce the ADC experience; what we do is induce a state of mind where the ADC then naturally unfolds. Probably the main principle of IADC[®] is sadness prevents ADCs from occurring. So, when we purposefully remove the sadness and get people to a state where they're feeling good, an ADC experience is much more likely. People who report spontaneous ADCs do not have them when they are feeling really sad or wanting contact. They just kind of come out of the blue. Oftentimes people are asleep, or most often in my experience they're asleep, but they describe them as very different from dreams in terms of their quality and clarity. And they tend to be remembered for a lifetime as opposed to forgotten over 24 hours.

He talks here about how EMDR can be used to induce the state of mind from which an ADC unfolds. This is the state of mind that heals the mind. The thing to remember is, this is not some gift from heaven. It is a *state of mind*.

Dr. Bodkin's website says this: "Most people believe their experiential reconnection is real, but they do not have to believe in the authenticity of the experience to benefit from its profound healing effects." It is similar to a therapist telling you to write a letter to a beloved dead one; what would you say to them? This is a healing process to "speak" to that person through this letter or through this IADC® experience, saying all those things we did not get to say when they were alive. It is a way to work through unresolved issues that plague us once the opportunity to communicate has passed.

This is a logical scenario that Dr. Bodkin is talking about. He is putting people through a clinically-proven process that is meant to work with the mind.

Death is the absence of life. Romans refers back to the original sentence for sin given in the garden:

Romans 6:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.



1) The outcome of inherited sin from Adam is death.

²²But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

2) The outcome does not have to be death; it can be eternal life through Christ.

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3) Sin does bring death - even having the holy spirit working within him, the Apostle Paul does not add to or change the simple Genesis equation. He does add that there is miraculous hope beyond the grave as a result of Jesus paying the ransom price.

In summary, Paul said there can be life after death, but first there is death - that state of lifelessness we all come to as a result of the sin of Adam (and our own inability to be totally righteous). Sin brings lifelessness.

- (annot talk through it, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV
 - (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) It's my firm belief that when it comes to grief and trauma, you can't talk your way out of it. You can't think your way out of it. You've got to get to the emotions, but not just get to them and bring them up. You have got to then <u>do</u> something with them, which is what the eye movement does so beautifully. It changes it. It gets those parts of the brain back involved where it can then be remembered in a very different way.
 - (Interviewer) Interesting, I just want to make sure people understand this part. So, if we're talking about sadness, guilt and anger, what you're saying is a lot of times, from your experience, the guilt and the anger when we're blaming other people, is protecting us from actually feeling the sadness.
 - (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) Correct.
 - (Interviewer) And so they are masking what the true core of the problem is, which is our sadness. And so, I'm sure a part of the challenge for you as their therapist is to get them to not focus on those other things, but to focus on the sadness because nobody really wants to do that, it's painful, right?
 - (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) Absolutely.

It is a matter of getting the brain to focus on healing rather than guilt and anger. That is what the therapy of EMDR is about - getting our brain to refocus so it can reconnect properly, enabling us to take steps forward. With trauma like PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and things like that, our brain's connections are changed.

We want to keep going back to Scripture to be sure we understand. The Scriptures say what they say about life; they say what they say about death. We do not want to step outside of those boundaries for even a second.

In this next verse, Job laments his great losses, feeling like he could not go on living:

<u>Job 14:10-14</u>: (NASB) ¹⁰ But man dies and lies prostrate. Man expires, and where is he? ¹¹As water evaporates from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dried up, ¹²So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep. ¹³Oh that You would hide me in Sheol (the grave), that You would conceal me until Your



wrath returns to You, that You would set a limit for me and remember me! ¹⁴If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes.

Job is referring to the resurrection change, which is still future. The Bible teaches there is lifelessness until the resurrection.

Job's struggle verifies the biblical theme of death being the absence of life. This can create a huge disconnect as we look at the many experiences people have had while suffering loss. This is why we are talking about the ADC phenomenon.



If people are really dead, what is happening?

If this experience is being caused by grief and loss, it can be our mind is trying to reconcile the void caused by the missing of that person. We can see how the EDMR approach could help us deal with this grief.



As a Christian, should we allow our therapist to perform EMDR with the express intent of trying to see a dead person as part of our treatment?

What if it happens accidentally within that treatment?

Let's be clear. If you miss your grandfather, and the object of seeking this treatment is to be able to see and talk to your grandfather, then the answer is absolutely, flat-out NO! Missing someone dearly and wanting to talk to them is not the same as trauma. It is the difference between the sadness of missing them a lot, or just not being able to get past that loss.

Wanting to speak to the dead is dangerous because we are now using our therapist as a psychic, which is entirely scripturally inappropriate. We are not to be curious about the dark forces of the spirit world. The dead are dead! If we think we are talking to a person who has died, it is either in our own minds or from Satan and his fallen angels.

EMDR and IADC® is NOT an open invitation to the spirit world. It is appropriate for deep trauma, not for a curious exploration.

- (1)) Grief and trauma, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV
 - (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) Grief and trauma are much more interchangeable to me than maybe perhaps some other people. Even people who are experiencing normal bereavement, and there's no real traumatic aspect to it, they may have troubling images of someone in the casket. It didn't look like them and every time they think of their lost loved one, they just see this horrible image of the person in the casket. That's like an intrusive symptom just like PTSD. And actually, whether it's normal grief or a traumatic issue, it is the same. You have to process sadness.
 - (Interviewer) In terms of the trauma, one of the things that you were able to do is replace the traumatic memory with a new memory.
 - (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) Yeah, and that seemed to happen automatically. My vets would frequently say, this is weird, but I try to remember the original traumatic image and it's really hard to get back. All I see is this smiling face now.



Dr. Botkin here is talking about his war veteran patients. He described people seeing their best friends get shot in the head with all the blood and gore. After the ADC and seeing their buddies looking happy, younger and with no wounds, the nice image replaced the bad. This had a positive result on their stress and grief.

The mind creates a new way to remember the same thing. We do that all the time when we go down a dark road in our own minds, creating images that are not real. We all make things a lot worse than they need to be. What are we doing? We are building images in our head. Well, this is your mind building a different image so you can cope with the loss and can move forward. It is a physiological change brought on by EMDR + IADC®.





Replacing traumatic memories with new memories is a critical step in the mind being able to heal itself and us being able to move forward in life. This treatment is valuable. It is the brain reminding you that things are okay.

If you do have a vision during IADC® therapy, what is it?

It is your brain helping you cope with the loss. We all have dreams. Sometimes we have bad dreams, sometimes good dreams. Sometimes they are vivid. We also have these "eureka!" moments. This is the brain working all the time.

The next step in our scriptural understanding of life and death:

<u>John 5:28-29</u>: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment <2920>.

Judgment: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2920, krisis, (subjectively or objectively for or against); by extension a tribunal; by implication justice (specifically divine law)

Notice it is not a resurrection to hellfire here; it is a resurrection from the grave to a time period of learning and ultimately, to a day of judgment.

For more on how the Day of Judgment is not just a sentence on what we have done in this life, but is a time of accountability and rehabilitation:



Understanding the events and purposes of Judgment Day

When we look at Jesus raising mankind in the future resurrection (because he paid the price for Adam's sin), it begins to change the overall picture of being in a "good place." The dead ARE dead, but in the future they will be in a "good place" - resurrected on a perfect earth. We will come back to this concept in the next segment.





As human beings created in God's image we have great capacity. If we can combine knowing God's plan as we experience healing from the grief of loss, we can not only heal our minds but focus our lives in the most positive way as well.

Knowing God's plan as we are working through our grief is a most important aspect that helps us see it much more clearly. As we observe the science of ADCs, let us also observe the power of God's eternal plans for all of humanity.

> What is the difference between the ADCs we are discussing compared to mediums and psychics?

There is literally a world of difference between the world of spiritism and darkness compared to the after-death communications we are discussing. ADCs come from within the human mind of the person who is struggling, be it naturally or through treatment for their sadness and grief. Mediums and psychics attempt to blindly touch the spirit world to provoke a communication that we believe is dangerous, dark and deceiving.

Searching out ways to communicate with the dead because we want to talk to them and miss them is going down the wrong road. It is a dark, evil, spiritual experience forbidden by God without exception. We must be careful.



(i)) Feeling hugged, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV

- (Interviewer) A lot of people get hugs, and they aren't just virtual hugs. They are feeling the sensation that someone is actually hugging them, right?
- (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) Yeah, as a matter of fact, that's something Sam said on my very first case. He said, "I could actually feel Lee's arms around me. I could feel it, like it was a real tactile kind of thing."

Dr. Botkin's first case decades ago was a Vietnam veteran named Sam who during the war was going to adopt a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl named Lee and take her back to the United States. The girl was killed in front of him, and he was traumatized ever since, unable to have a relationship with his biological daughter. During his EMDR, he perceived Lee as being an adult, wearing white, safe and happy. She told him he took wonderful care of her, and she was okay. He was a completely changed man after this.



In my wife's experience with EMDR, she felt physical sensations. She felt the ground shake. She got nauseous because the ground was shaking while she was sitting in the room with the therapist. How did she feel it? Because her mind brought her there, giving her a new way to cope with the trauma that she couldn't handle. It had taken some of the circuits in their brain and shut them down. This was her brain giving her a way to open them back up.





Should we counsel against this therapy because there is a great chance of people believing they will be actually communicating with a deceased individual?



If someone asks me about going through this therapy because they are having post-traumatic difficulty from the loss of a loved one, and I know them from a spiritual perspective, I will make sure they understand that person is NOT there. But they probably will be able to work through the issues from the loss of that person, and that person will be inside their mind. I would absolutely say yes to such counseling. But I would not recommend it if they are just looking forward to seeing a dead person.

We cannot forget Satan's lie in <u>Genesis 3:4</u> - you will NOT surely die. If we believe the dead are not really dead but are instead flying around somewhere living their lives and occasionally peeking in to talk to and reassure us, this is not true. Satan will use any means to get us farther from the truth and therefore keep us farther from God.

Bible principle helps to answer this. Preaching and performing miracles in idolatrous cities always carried the inherent danger of misinterpretation, but the Apostle Paul did it anyway.

One example is when Paul healed a man who had never walked before:

Acts 14:11-15: (NASB) ¹¹When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, The gods have become like men and have come down to us. ¹²And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

The healing caused the people to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods! The healing brought an inappropriate response from the crowd.

The crowd's reaction was dramatic. They cheered and celebrated the presence of the "gods" with them:

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵and saying, Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Paul and Barnabas took the opportunity to explain the truth, knowing the likelihood that most would not believe them and would go back to their idolatrous ways.

But they still performed miracles. Why? Because they were preaching the gospel, and it inevitably gets misunderstood throughout history. Does that mean we do not preach it anymore? No, we still preach.



Our explanations of truth in relation to this kind of healing is not to demoralize someone from pursuing the mind's natural process of healing. There is nothing spiritual about this. It is all inside the mind; it's physiological. We do not want to discourage someone from that natural process.

When it comes time to help them understand the depth of it, let's do it "in season" (at the appropriate time) and as encouragement. Our opinion is to let people get the physical healing they need so they can move forward.

This can be a scary thing to a lot of people when trying to fix a trauma they have gone through. This medical breakthrough can help a lot when you are at the point of not being able to cope with life. There is so much we do not understand about the brain. Living under sin and sickness, we are all broken some way or another. Thank God for His promised kingdom when we will have perfect minds and have peace throughout eternity.

(1) Natural experience vs. new age, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV

- (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) When I worked at the VA (Veteran's Administration) and I would introduce this to my combat patients, they looked at me like I was an idiot, and they would say things like, "That's not going to work with me, Doc. I don't believe in that..." Actually, that makes them easier to work with because when it gets to the point of doing the induction, they're wide open to this natural experience. Now, I get a lot of New Agey people who think they know what this experience is supposed to be like, and they have beliefs and expectations that they try to insert into the experience. When that happens, nothing happens. It completely blocks it.
- (Interviewer) You're right. You separate what you're doing from hypnotherapy from hypnosis, and you do it well in the book.
- (Allan L. Botkin, PsyD) All of our brain wave studies, EEGs studies, indicate that in fact the two are very different brain states.

EMDR is not in any way, shape or form hypnosis. It is a completely different brain state. It helps unlock the brain to make physical reconnections.

Doubters of EMDR are actually best prepared for healing, as they are not inserting what they think they know into the mind's healing process. The New Age people are looking to insert the darkness of spiritism into the light of the human brain's ability to heal itself. Light and dark do not mix.

Dr. Botkin went on to say that in ALL (and "all" is a big word) cases where there are issues of horrible guilt and anger, forgiveness has always (another big word) happened. If the deceased person was a bad person - a horrible, drunken father who abused his kids, in the ADC the person is different and aware of the pain they caused and takes full responsibility. You can see what that kind of response would mean to a damaged, abused person. This is exactly what they would want to hear, and the brain creates this for their healing.

EMDR



Does IADC® prove an afterlife, Latest Breakthrough, Induced After-Death Communication, Afterlife TV

• People often ask me, "Well, Doctor, do you think IADC® proves there's an afterlife?" The way I generally respond to that is, "Well, why are you asking me? I'm only a psychologist." The only people that have a truly informed opinion are those who have had the experience. So, when someone says, what do I think, go ask somebody who's had the experience. They know what it's like. As a psychologist, I'm all about healing. I work with people that suffer so profoundly, it's beyond imagination of the kind of terrible things that I work with.

He is helping patients through EMDR by letting the mind heal itself, letting it reconnect the connections it lost through traumatic stress. He treats this as a physiological phenomenon of the amazing power of the mind.

Perhaps we can look at this incredible healing power of our minds as a glimpse of what God has in store. These ADCs seem to assure those who grieve that the deceased is in a "better place." We unequivocally believe they are dead (with the exception of the "called-out ones"), which means they are without consciousness. But we also believe they have all been ransomed by Jesus, which means they have a resurrection waiting for them and a true, real-life opportunity to be in that "better place" with all of humanity.

Dr. Botkin was asked if people go again and again to see their dead loved one and he said before they start treatment, they say they are going to want to go again and again. But he said, "...once people have the experience, in all cases they get exactly what they need, their desire to keep going back goes away."

We said, with the exception of the "called-out ones" - the Bible tells us there is a relatively small number of truly faithful footstep followers of Jesus who do receive their reward in heaven at death, but the vast majority of the world are in their graves awaiting their resurrection on earth. The dead - either in heaven or in their graves - are NOT trying to communicate with us, as comforting as that thought might be.

Many Bible prophecies describe the conditions of this future kingdom of God on earth:

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.





For the Christian, an "after-death communication" can appropriately be renamed an "after-death reconciling" of our feelings of sadness, grief, anger or guilt with the plan and will of God. The deceased WILL be in a "better place" and we can therefore release the weight of their death because Jesus has already ransomed them.

This subject gives God the glory on how the brain works and how it can be fixed. It is amazing!

This was a difficult subject. We want to be crystal clear that these after-death communications are physiological. We absolutely do NOT believe in trying to communicate with the dead!

An ADC can happen when our grief and trauma are overwhelming. It is a way for our own mind to "right the ship" so we can go on with life. Let's take the gift of a human mind that seeks that equilibrium and thank God for that ability to repair itself, and for the resurrection in the future kingdom made possible by the ransom of Jesus Christ.

So, can the dead communicate with us?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!



Join us next week for our podcast on November 1, 2021 Ep. 1202: Is Anyone Listening to the Wisdom of the Bible?

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.

Bonus Material and Study Questions

A little bit on what the Scriptures teach regarding immortality:

Webster's Online Dictionary: to be immortal is to be exempt from death, or exempt from oblivion



The New Testament uses only two Greek words translated into English as *immortality*:

Immortality: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #861 *aphtharsia*; incorruptibility; unending existence; (figuratively) genuineness

King James Version translates this word as: immortality, incorruption, sincerity

Immortality: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #110 athanasia; deathlessness

Would we not expect to see at least an inkling of these words connected with the human "soul" if in fact the "soul" was inherently immortal?

If we were to have immortality inherent in the human being, why would we have to seek it?

<u>Romans 2:7</u>: (KJV) To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality <861>, eternal life.

This is seeking life eternal. It does not mention anything about physical makeup.

These next texts address that seeking in the context of what kind of "body" goes to heaven:

<u>1 Corinthians 15:42</u>: (KJV) So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.

<u>1 Corinthians 15:50</u>: (KJV) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

<u>1 Corinthians 15:53-54</u>: (KJV) ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Interesting side note - ancient Egyptian culture was steeped in the thought of life continuing after a physical death, but the Hebrew culture was not.

So far, there is no scriptural challenge to humans being mortal souls:

<u>2 Timothy 1:10</u>: (KJV) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality <861> to light through the gospel.

<u>1 Timothy 6:16</u>: (KJV) Who only hath <u>immortality <110</u>>, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The New Testament says we do not "own" immortality, agreeing with the Old Testament.

Check out our Co Kids videos:



WHAT IS THE SOUL?

christianquestions.com/youtube



Ep. 1201: Can the Dead Communicate with Us?

https://christianquestions.com/society/1201-after-death-communications/

See:



- 1. Where did God place the first man, Adam? What was his job? Did God give Adam a consequence for disobedience? (See Genesis 2:15-17)
- 2. What does "ADC" stand for? Describe what an ADC is. When do spontaneous ADCs seem to be most prevalent? During what state of consciousness do they most often occur?
- 3. How did Jacob manifest and describe his grief at the supposed loss of Joseph? Why is grief so difficult for human beings? What kind of actions do we take to keep our dead loved ones alive in our hearts and minds? (See Genesis 37:33-35, 1:27-30)
- 4. What did God say were the consequences of sin? What happens when we die and what do the Scriptures tell us about death? What would ultimately happen to Adam when he died? What does this tell us about an ADC? (See Genesis 3:17-19)
- 5. What is the *reticular activator* in the brain? How does it help us in everyday life? How does it work when we have unresolved issues, like dealing with death? Why might ADCs rarely be negative or frightening?
- 6. What was Satan's great lie? How can we distinguish between our minds using an apparent ADC to help work through our grief, and Satan or the fallen angels attempting to deceive us through an ADC?

 How can we make sure not to invite evil spirits into this kind of experience? (See Genesis 3:1-7)
- 7. How does EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy) used with ADC help with trauma and deep sadness? Where does the brain need to focus? How does our *motivation* for the experience of ADC affect our spiritual well-being? How does keeping God's eternal plan for mankind in our mind's eye help us work through grief?
- 8. How does the EMDR/IADC® therapy work with the mind? ADCs seem to always assure the grieving that they are fine, that they are in a "better place." Where *are* the dead right now? Are they trying to communicate with us? (See John 5:28-29, Job 14:10-14, Micah 4:1-4)
- 9. How have you dealt with deep trauma or grief in your life? What Scriptures soothe and comfort you?

