

A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles

Instruction and Inspiration for Living Supernaturally in Christ

J.P. Moreland

Chapter 8 – The Nature, Reality, and Purposes of Angels and Demons

“I have never understood why some people believe that all of reality should be squeezed into a little box of things available only to the sense organs of Homo sapiens.” (*p. 183*)

Angels: Their Nature and Ministries

“Angels are our co-laborers in and for the kingdom of God, and precious, dear companions of believers. Here is a summary of several ways they aid us:

- They worship and obey God and serve us on God’s behalf (Psalm 103.19-21)
- They minister to our needs and bring us comfort (Hebrews 1.7, 14)
- They protect us from harm (2 Kings 6.8-18; Psalms 34.7; 35.4-6; 91.11-12)
- They reveal messages from God to us (Luke 1.11-21; 2.8-12; the Greek *angelos* means “messenger”)
- They guide us (Matthew 2.13; Acts 8.26)
- They often attend to believers at death (Luke 16.22)”

(pp. 184-185)

“Our knowledge of the supernatural is grounded in credible supernatural experiencesI believe the testimonial evidence I have given about my guardian angels would stand up almost anywhere—even in a court of law!” (*pp. 187, 191*)

Demons: Their Nature and Activities

“Demons are fallen angels, and as such, they are malevolent angelic persons who, like persons in general, live in an ordered society in which some demons have greater power and authority than others.” (*p. 195*)

“For the believer, there are degrees of demonic influence, from mild harassment to significant control.” (*p. 195*)

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

(C.S. Lewis, preface to The Screwtape Letters)

“...liken demons to rats. Rats need garbage to feed on and will leave when the garbage is gone. Similarly, demons usually gain entrance into our lives because of spiritual, emotional, or physical “garbage,” and the demons fester and make worse what was already there, preying on our anxieties, fears, and sinful temptations.” (p. 196)

Four Ways We Know Demons Are Real

- The Bible and Jesus clearly affirm their reality.
- We have seen people experience relief after addressing them as demonic influences, even when nothing else works.
- We can know demons are real if the person’s inner life and behavior comport with biblical descriptions of those for demonized people.
 - They are apt to embrace false teaching (1 Tim 4.1-2; 2 Tim 2.25-26; 1 John 4.1)
 - They cannot accept the forgiveness of God and are filled with obsessive guilt, shame, and fear (1 Peter 5.8; Rev 12.120)
 - They show resistance to spiritual things (Mark 5.7)
 - They cannot acknowledge that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12.3)
 - They do not love other believers (1 John 3.10), 14; 4.20)
 - They respond in fear and disobedience to the name of Jesus.
- We have witnessed explicit manifestations of supernatural phenomena.

(pp. 196-197)

[read story on pp. 200-202]

“The secular worldview is false. Angels and demons are around us all the time. And there is solid evidence that they are real.” (p. 211)

Chapter 9 – Defending the Veracity of Near-Death Experiences

A Brief Assessment of the Case for and Against the Veracity of NDEs

“Contrary to what you might think, NDEs aren’t all that rare.... It’s estimated that about one out of twenty-five Americans have had an NDE, and if you extrapolate this figure, it means around 15 to 16 million Americans now living have experienced one.” (p. 215)

“I don’t know of a single case in which a researcher did not convert to believing in God and the reality of the afterlife after being exposed to the evidence.” (p. 215)

“Six lines of evidence for the veracity of NDEs:

1. NDEs are worldwide, numerous, often failing to conform to religious or worldview expectations, and happen to atheists as well as little children....
2. NDEs show evidence of enhanced consciousness when there should be no consciousness at all....
3. People born blind or deaf and who have never seen or heard anything are able to report accurately specific things they saw and heard that were fully verified by medical personnel....
4. In NDEs, there is an odd commonality of the ‘universal love theme,’ despite radical cultural differences about what is most important....
5. We cannot ignore the non-duplicable, long-lasting, radical life changes that result from an NDE.... NDEers are no longer afraid of dying. They have a greater sense of God’s presence and have purpose in life, and their core values are utterly transformed. This impact frequently lasts and is orders of magnitude greater than the Impact caused by any other experience.
6. We have evidential cases with objectively verified confirming corroboration.... People report meeting family members or friends they knew nothing about, such as details about an older brother they did not know had ever existed. Some report meeting people no one knew were dead....” (pp. 215-218)

“For believers, while we may go through pain as we near death, death itself is not necessarily—if at all—a negative experience. Indeed, it is so gentle that some don’t know it has happened!” (p. 228)

Books recounting Near-Death Experiences in Fr. Michael's personal library:

90 Minutes in Heaven, Don Piper

Didn't You Read My Book?, Dr. Richard Eby

Proof of Heaven, A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife, Eben Alexander, M.D.

23 Minutes in Hell, Bill Wiese

To Hell and Back, Maurice Rawlings, M.D.

To Heaven and Back, A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again, Mary Neal, M.D.

When Will the Heaven Begin? Ally Breedlove

My Descent into Death, Howard Storm

Light & Death, Michael Sabom, M.D.

Heaven is for Real, Todd Burpo

Return from Tomorrow, George Ritchie, M.D.

Chapter 10 – Where Do We Go from Here?

1. We must recapture the value of learning why we believe what we believe. Simplistic calls to “faith” are no longer adequate [*No more Christianity Light*]
2. We must recapture the habits at the center of a richer approach to spiritual formation.
3. We must regain our confidence in and practice of experiencing the supernatural, miraculous power of God's Spirit and kingdom [*through*]
 - a. **EXPOSURE**—putting ourselves in a position to see, hear, read, learn about, and experience the supernatural power of God.
 - b. **ENACTMENT**—We also must take risks and exercise faith, doing the supernatural works God wants to do through us.... The key to a supernatural lifestyle is practice, practice, practice. John Wimber used to say that faith was spelled r-i-s-k.

(pp. 245-247)