

Scientific Evidence For Life After Death

Based on Interview with Dr Gary Habermasⁱ

There are 4 stages of Near-Death Experiences (NDE):

1. A state from which you will almost assuredly die (e.g. no pulse) if something does not happen quickly.
2. Abrupt loss of heart function. Cessation of heartbeat. A cardiac arrest patient has no more heart beat, a flat EKG. When that happens for an estimated less than 5 minutes, one loses vital brain information.
3. A flat EEG: no measurable brain activity. This happens after about 15 seconds of cessation of heartbeat.
4. Biological death. No return from it.

Measurable data is available from each of those stages.

Here are quotes from the ground breaking book, “The science of near-death experiences”ⁱⁱ by John C Hagan, III, 2017, published by prestigious University of Missouri Press. Hagan, a medical doctor, edited this book, containing 10 chapters written by 10 medical doctors.

“Between 9 to 20 million Americans have had near-death experiences” (NDE).

“The time is ripe for an innovative rational inquiry into the biggest question of human existence. This book, the first compiled by a respected, main stream, peer reviewed medical journal, is a bold step into that direction.” From Foreword by Raymond Moody MD, PhD

“...a multi article, (world first) peer reviewed scientific study of NDEs by physicians and other scientists . . . “

*“With one exception NDEs may be interpreted as unusual forms of hallucinations, associated with the injured and dying brain. **The exception involves perceptions described from vantage points outside the body that are later confirmed to be correct and could not have been inferred.** Over a century of laboratory studies have investigated whether it is possible in principle for the mind to transcend the physical boundaries of the brain. The cumulative, experiential database strongly indicates that it can. It is not clear that this finding implies the mind is separate from the brain but it does suggest that a comprehensive explanation for NDEs will require revisions to present scientific assumptions about the brain-mind relationship.”*

*“Van Lommel (MD) is the first in our series to raise the subject of **non-local consciousness** as a necessity to scientifically explain many of the currently puzzling phenomena of NDEs.”*

“Dr Long elaborates on nine lines of evidence that converge on the explanation that NDEs cannot be scientifically explained at this time. Among the most impressive of

these nine are factual reports of events that have occurred in the past, or did happen in the future, or that transpired during the persons NDE, that were physically remote and otherwise unknowable by the person. Other unaccountable events include totally blind individuals describing accurately vivid visual events during their resuscitation.”

“(chapter 8)...NDEs by apparently non-physical, veridical (=coinciding with reality) perception (AVP)...How can a person having an NDE experience during a cardiac arrest upon resuscitation and recovery report accurately events and occurrences local and remote in time and space unknowable, even by a fully awake and alert person located in the same physical location as the apparently comatose and near-death person? AVPs represent one of the most difficult aspects of NDEs research that have yet to be explained by those scientists that ascribe NDEs to altered neurophysiology.”

“(Chapter 9) ...NDEing children who later in life accurately describe events at their birth or infancy. She believes that a mature, functioning brain is not needed for an NDE.”

“(Chapter 10) ... “Greyson (MD) was the first to point out “the occurrence of distressing near death experiences, which are disturbing, even terrifying, to those who experience them.”

“. . . their review of over 30 years of NDEs literature concludes that DNDEs (Distressing Near Death Experiences) may occur as often as one in five cases (19 to 21%) and that both external and internal barriers to reporting them, making them under-reported. . .Lastly, in the DNDE the “heavenly and redemptive themes” of most NDEs are replaced by a “hellish and damnation experience.”

NDE verification:

- 1. Living, healthy people who witness a portion of somebody else’s NDE.**
- 2. Receiving future information from a person that died.**
- 3. Verifiable information inside a room while the person is unconscious.**
- 4. Verifiable information outside the room, some distance (up to five states in the USA, 1250 miles) away, while their physical bodies never left the hospital room.**
- 5. People blind since birth experience sight during NDE.**
- 6. Reporting data received from someone who is irreversibly dead.**

Documented and catalogued cases for the 6 stages above:

- 1. Living, healthy people who witness a portion of somebody else’s NDE.**

This example was described by Dr Raymond Moody: “There was a very elderly mother and grandmother in bed, surrounded by, I believe, five of her family members. She's come to the end of her very fulfilled life. Everyone's sad that she's suffering so much. All of a sudden, she's lying peacefully on the bed and all of a sudden it seems like she sat up. Her body was still back on the pillow. Yet they saw what looks like a wispy kind of spirit. A light over her bed, a spinning orb could be observed. Nobody wanted to talk. The orb elongated into a tunnel and Grandma smiled. They watched as she came up out of her body and she started going up this tunnel. They're all looking and watching as the orb disappeared. She died. Like Moses, they did not enter the promised land but saw it from a distance.

2. Receiving future information from a person that died.

One person who had an NDE was told: “your cousin was just killed in Afghanistan and you're going to hear about that. When he gained consciousness he got that exact message, which he heard beforehand.

3. Verifiable information inside a room while the person is unconscious.

Sometimes one can see tennis shoes on the roof of buildings. Some people see ledges or girders above their head and somebody will try to flip a penny to get it up there. We do funny things with things above our head. Often near-death patients have been up above their body.

One of them said: “There is a Jefferson nickel on top of that girder over there and when I saw it I kind of zoomed in on it and it's a 1988.” When the person became conscious again, they sent a janitor up there. He found a 1988 nickel! How would that be possible without the NDE when a person reports such detailed data?

In one case the person became conscious again and the doctor came in to talk to them later: “We have already got figures on that machine.” The patient said: “I'm sorry doctor the machine was not plugged in. When I was up above my body, I looked over there. I don't know if somebody kicked it or what, but the plug was lying on the floor.” Now how would you know that? The doctor checked it out they went back and checked the plug was lying on the floor.

The next example took place in a room next to where the patient was. A person was in surgery and they're up above their body. They're watching and they drifted over through a wall into to another surgical room. They watched a man having his leg amputated and they described the amputation surgery while they were on the bed in this room. That's reported in a book edited by Janice Holden who was for years the editor of the Journal of near-death studies, the only peer-reviewed medical journal devoted to near-death experiences. (“The handbook of near-death experiences – 30 years of investigation”ⁱⁱⁱ by Dr Janis Holden, Professor, University of North Texas.)

The following case is also reported in the book by Dr Jan Holden: “A woman was up above her body during an NDE. She looked down on the top of a medical machine that was 6 to 8 feet tall. It had a 12-digit number written on it for the hospital to keep track of all their machines. She suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and had a habit of memorizing long numbers. Therefore, she memorised that

number. After gaining consciousness, the women told the nurse to write down the number. The nurse wrote it down and put it away. A couple of days later they came to get that machine to take it back out. The nurse checked the number and confirmed it was exactly the same as the woman memorised during her NDE experience.

4. Verifiable information outside the room, some distance (up to five states in the USA, 1250 miles) away, while their physical bodies never left the hospital room.

There's a very well-known case from years ago where a little, seven-year-old girl drowned in a pool. She was known not to have heartbeat for about 20 minutes. There was a physician at the poolside and they brought her in. As far as they could tell she had no brain waves because her pupils were fixed and dilated. They put her on a breathing machine.

I've talked to the medical doctor, a paediatric brain specialist. He had a double specialization. He said: "I would have given her a one in a thousand chance of living, a one in a ten thousand chance of living with brain function." They hooked her up and about three days later she spontaneously gained consciousness. She looked up and said: "You're the doctor that saved me when I was brought in. Thank you! Where's the other doctor, the tall one." He said, "I'll go to get him now."

He was an agnostic, thinking, "what's this about?" He went down the hall, got the other guy, brought him down and she talked. The doctors took notes for about an hour and she described things. "One of them was an angel who came and talked to me. The first night the angel allowed me to look into my parents' home." They're starting to say, "okay this is a contact point of the real world. We want to know if there's something verifiable." She talked about where her dad was sitting and what he was doing. Her brother and sister went upstairs to play Monopoly. Mom was cooking dinner, chicken and rice.

Then Mom and the family who lived about two or three miles away came to visit. Before they could talk, the doctor asked what she made for dinner two nights ago, etc. The family verified everything the girl said. This has been written up in a medical journal. She's been a frequent guest on television.

There are many other recorded stories taking place over impressive distances across other states. The longest one I've seen is 1250 miles away. The person went for surgery and in middle of it he had a 30 minutes cardiac arrest. He and his wife reported their experience in the same book, edited by Dr Jan Holden. They went up to Milwaukee to have this surgery but they had somebody house sitting for them in Florida.

During his NDE he looked in on his house in Florida and noticed several things the guy was doing. He was taking mail and piling it on the dining room table. Not a big deal. But he saw a magazine that was not your normal American looking magazine. He took note of it when he got out of the hospital. He asked the fellow "what were you doing on this first night, anything like this?" He did a little tiny drawing before the guy answered and it was very close to what was going on. The magazine from

Western Europe was still sitting there at the dining room table when he got back home.

There are 109 cases recorded in that book. In order to be included, anything the NDE person reports has to be verified by a third party or you don't get into the book.

There is another recorded case of a woman who was going to be operated on. Her two grandmothers and her father were present. After they took her for surgery, they went down to the hospital cafeteria. Her dad was a smoker. Her one grandmother used to be a smoker and the third one was known around the family as saying: "I wouldn't touch those cancer sticks. I've never smoked one in my life and I'm sure not going to start now." She was always complaining about cigarettes.

During the surgery she had an NDE. She saw her three relatives. Dad pushes away from the table and says, "I'm going to go outside and get a smoke." The grandmother who used to smoke said, "I'm going with you. Can I have one of your cigarettes?" The third one who said, "I won't touch those cancer sticks," said, "I think I'd need a cigarette too." They went outside and the young lady watched all three of them smoke and later when she came out of her NDE, she asked the three. "Where you all smoking outside?"

5. People blind since birth experience sight during NDE.

In the first case a blind person from birth was given a tie as a gift. During the NDE they saw the tie for the first time as opposed to unwrapping it and feeling it. They saw the tie and they were able to give a pretty minute description of the colours and the design on the tie.

Another person who had an NDE was blind and had two best friends preceding her in death. Her story was published in several places. All three were blind. Just before she became conscious again, she saw both of her friends for what seemed like seconds or a minute. This helped her describe them in new detailed and correct ways she never knew about (e.g. a mole, darker skin, younger looking) besides feeling a contour or hair style face.

6. Reporting data received from someone who is irreversibly dead.

There's a famous case where a son who had an NDE saw his dad. The family had been trying to solve a will but they couldn't find the writing. Dad had put it somewhere and nobody could find it. Dad tells the son during the NDE, it was sewn into the inner pocket of one of his coats. After the son got conscious again, they found the document.

The person who gives the information is irreversibly dead. In some of these cases the person was dead two, three, five years, but occasionally a person was dead ten or fifteen years. One case is reported where a mother had been dead for 49 years. She died in childbirth and before the son was old enough to walk and talk his father had already remarried. Mom's pictures were all out of the house. A heart attack at the age of 49 lead to his near-death experience, during which he met his birth mom. The aunt who understood that her sister's pictures had not been around the house

because her brother-in-law had remarried, came over with a family album. She asked the son who had recovered from the NDE, "which one did you see during your NDE?" He picked his mother out of the book for the first time.

Other people report something similar to near-death experiences. It is sometimes referred to as post-death visions where somebody gets a 10 second meeting with somebody on the day of their funeral. There are a number of stories where they're sitting in the person's home after the funeral. Everyone's going to be getting into their cars and going home. Three or five of them are in the living room. The person who died appears in the room briefly for 5 seconds. Someone says, "are you really here?" Sometimes they don't even talk and they walk over and pick up a hairbrush, dropping it in someone's lap. Everybody sees the person move an object. More than one person has seen them. The point is they don't ever come back so they're irreversibly dead. Those are sort of twilight zone dead.

Paul may have had a NDE in 2 Cor 12:2 referring to perhaps Acts 14, when he was left for dead. (see also Phil. 1:21, or Stephen in Acts 7).

Conclusion

The probability that near-death experiences (NDEs) exist is also very high from a scientific point of view. Atheists and agnostics do not like God, life after death and ethical rules. However, John Beloff, atheist and psychology professor in Edinburgh, UK, confirmed:

"The evidence for life after death is so strong that humanists should simply admit it and try to interpret it in naturalistic terms."

This article has shown that the best explanation for near-death experiences is that humans have a consciousness that lives on separately after their physical death.

This is confirmed by the worldview of the Bible.

Jesus said:

*"I am the resurrection, and I am the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
(John 11:25-26)*

And:

*"I tell you the truth, whoever believes in me has eternal life!"
(John 6:47)*

Wouldn't it therefore make sense to investigate the claims of Jesus once again?^{iv}

For questions and comments please write to info@christianityexplained.net

ⁱ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-73sGpq6lo>

ⁱⁱ https://www.amazon.com/Science-Near-Death-Experiences-John-Hagan-ebook/dp/B06XKJX2H3/ref=sr_1_1?crid=318Z9ZPJOTEU1&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.TwshPZuU1TsOBF8x-pQ5MA.ceaXgV_ZZndh1XPv3Ed5EmeWEsLlOHgkbrqt3YbnlYg&dib_tag=se&keywords=The+science+of+near-death+experiences+by+John+C+Hagan%2C+III&qid=1705010833&s=digital-text&sprefix=the+science+of+near-death+experiences+by+john+c+hagan%2C+iii%2Cdigital-text%2C159&sr=1-1&asin=B06XKJX2H3&revisionId=c8cf89a5&format=2&depth=1

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Near-Death-Experiences-Thirty-Investigation/dp/0313358648/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1JGUS1ZKC9D7C&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.Tdnj7agie-0Xf5Im7qvLk2xX-o2WSsecndxveSYM5EY.S4eO8qViMn6ly34ion3xCuBo3YaTdq8vWlUaOXXv50I&dib_tag=se&keywords=%28%22The+handbook+of+near-death+experiences+-+30+years+of+investigation%22&qid=1705162949&sprefix=the+handbook+of+near+death+experiences+-+30+years+of+investigation+%2Caps%2C150&sr=8-1

For European reactions on the issue of NDE:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2001/dec/14/health.medicalscience>

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2014/10/07-worlds-largest-near-death-experiences-study.page>

^{iv} For negative reactions to this overwhelming evidence please consider:

Luke 16: The rich man and Lazarus:

27 'He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." 29 'Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them." 30 "'No, father Abraham," he said, "but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent." 31 'He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Verse 30 is very similar to the Near-Death experiences.

Verse 31 describes people who do not want to believe because they are comfortable with their current lives.