



"BOO!"

Do you believe in ghosts? Many people report the presence of a departed loved one in the home after they have died. My niece reported feeling the presence of her 17 year-old

son, Brian in the house after he died in January. I have heard other credible people make claims such as this. On the other hand, Gail has spent many hours in Betty Long's home in S.L.O. clearing out things and has never felt any of Betty's presence in the home. What's the difference?

Paul wrote, *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.* II Corinthians 5:8

Betty is with the Lord in heaven. There is no need for her to roam around an old house on Fairview Street in S.L.O. She has a new address. Brian's parents, on the other hand, would have nothing to do with God or faith in Christ and so, where is Brian now?

We make the generalization that we either go to heaven or Hell. Eventually, this is the case. As far as heaven is concerned, it is as with the thief on the cross, *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

Luke 23:43

We go there immediately. The others do not go straight to "Hell." I must be a bit more specific because our English translations are not. There are two (actually three) terms used for "Hell." The Greek term "Hades" is used where those who die outside of Christ currently go. It is the same as in the Old Testament. The other term, Gehenna, is the place of Eternal Torment where Satan and the fallen angels will be cast at the time of the end. Gehenna is the place where those who are now in Hades will also be cast.

So, for now, those who die outside of Christ do not go directly to "Hell." They go to an intermediate place we call Hades. Where is this? I don't know. I do know this.

The Witch of Endor said to King Saul, *"Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me." When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul." And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid; but what do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the earth." And he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage. Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines"* I Samuel 28:11-15

Before the Resurrection, no one went directly to heaven when they died. Samuel did not. He was, apparently, in a section of Hades referred to as "Abraham's Bosom." (Luke 16:22). It was possible, therefore, to summon Samuel from there.

If this was possible, it is possible that the souls of those who depart outside of Christ can, in fact, return in spirit to "haunt" a place. On the other hand, it might just be demons who are impersonating the departed person.

If you have had a loved one die "in Christ" and have sensed his or her presence, I can assure you it is not their soul that you sense for their soul is in heaven with the Lord. I can also assure you whether it is the soul of a lost sinner or a demon, you do not want to have anything to do with it. One only has to read the New Testament to know that demons and other spirits do, indeed, exist and that you and I, as Christians, are to avoid these.

So, when you here some spirit say, "Boo!" Run!

Wayne

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