

# NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES?

## Evidence of the Soul

Steve Hemler & Lee Granger



# Presentation Outline

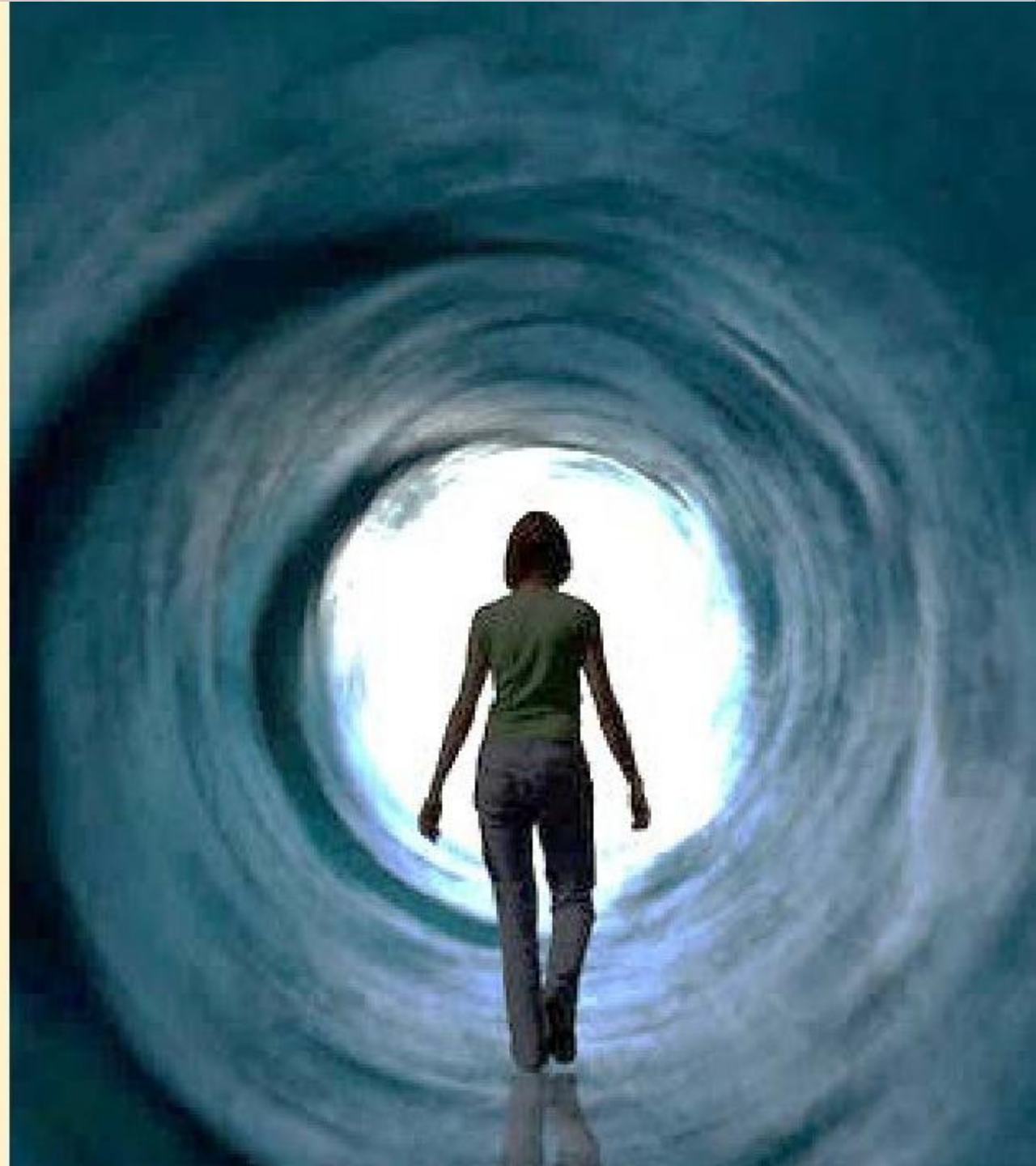
- Overview of Near-Death Experiences
- Medical Studies of NDEs
- Study Findings and Conclusions



# The Soul and Afterlife

- Christianity and other religions teach we have a spiritual and immortal soul that lives on after death.
  - Eternal life in either heaven or hell.
- Surveys show less than 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of American adults believe this.
- Is there scientific evidence of our soul and the afterlife?
- Near-Death Experiences (NDEs)
  - Lucid experiences associated with consciousness separate from body/brain.
  - Occur at time of actual or threatened imminent death.

People report moving outside their bodies, passing through hospital walls, and even being transported to another place, often moving through a tunnel toward a bright light.





# Near-Death Experiences

## Major Elements of NDEs:

- Out-of-Body Experience (OBE)
- Feelings of love, joy, peace, painlessness
- Meet deceased relatives, other beings
- Rapid movement toward loving white light
- Receiving a life review
- Suddenly back inside one's earthly body

*Video: Heather Sloan's NDE (BBC)*



# Near-Death Experiences

- But are NDEs real?
- Skeptics:
  - Defense mechanism produced by chemicals in dying brain.
  - Brain's response to drugs, lack of oxygen.
  - Hallucination or delusion.
  - Wishful thinking using memories implanted in subconscious.
- How can we know NDEs are real?

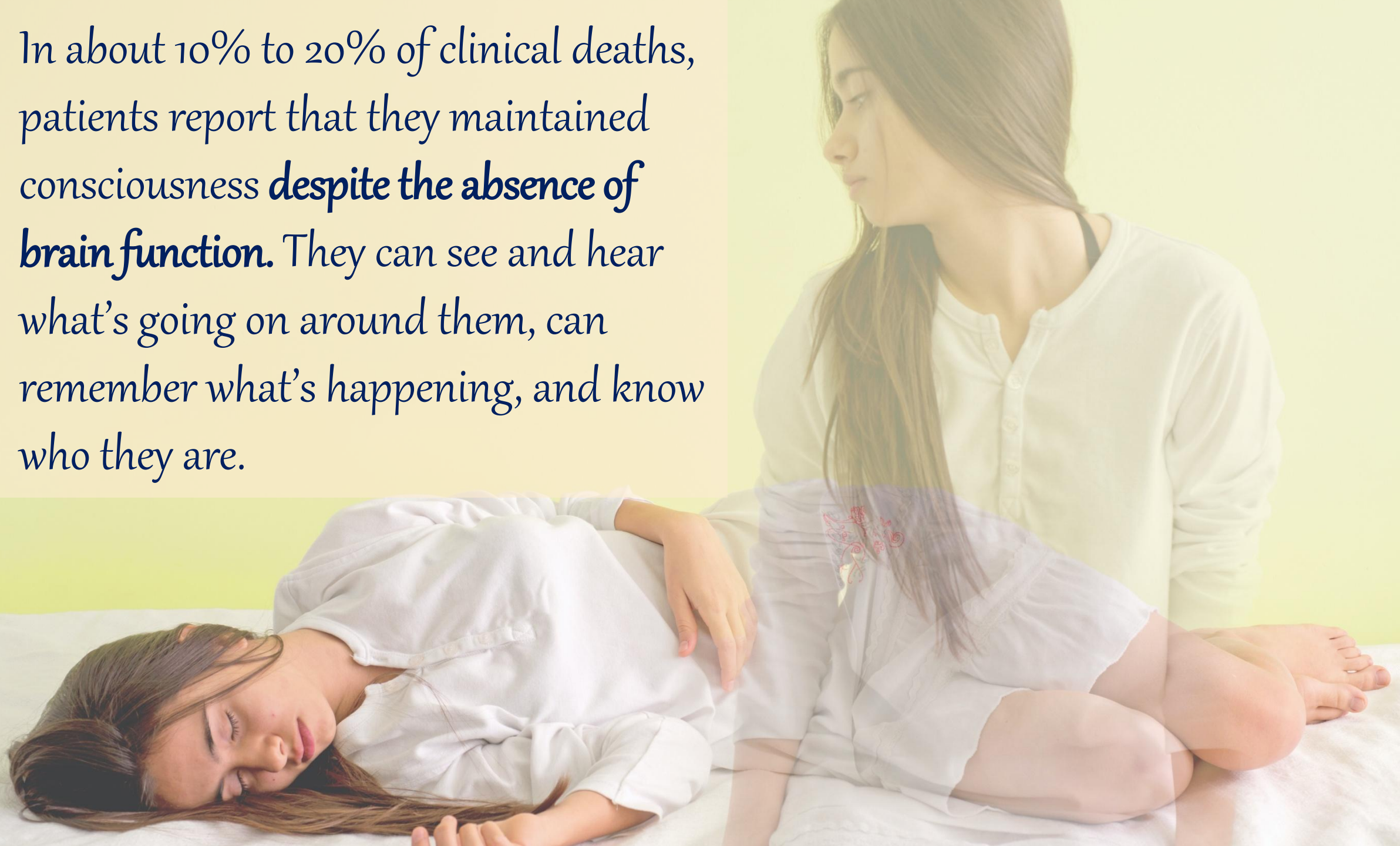
# Medical Studies of NDEs

- Over 65 peer-reviewed medical studies of more than 3,500 NDEs.
- Significance of Scientific Studies:
  - Information gathered under clinical conditions by medical doctors.
  - Patients clinically dead during NDE.
    - No heartbeat, flat EKG/EEG, no gag reflex, fixed and dilated pupils.
  - Other causes (hallucinations, drugs, oxygen deprivation, etc.) ruled out.
- *Video: Fr. Spitzer, BBC on NDE Studies*





In about 10% to 20% of clinical deaths, patients report that they maintained consciousness **despite the absence of brain function**. They can see and hear what's going on around them, can remember what's happening, and know who they are.



# Medical Studies of NDEs

- Medical Studies Validate NDE Reality:
  1. Confirmed observations of physical world.
    - When clinically dead.
    - “Maria’s Shoe” & dentures in crash cart drawer.
- *Video: Confirmed observations of physical world while clinically dead.*
  - *Pam Reynolds’ NDE during surgery to repair a large aneurism in her brain.*





# Medical Studies of NDEs

- Medical Studies Validate NDE Reality:
  1. Confirmed observations of physical world.
  2. Meeting previously unknown deceased relatives during NDE.
    - Including those they thought were still alive but only after NDE discovered had indeed died.
    - Learn new personal information about deceased persons during NDE.
      - *Heaven is for Real* book & movie about Colton Burpo's NDE.
- *Video: Meeting previously unknown deceased relatives during NDE*







# Medical Studies of NDEs

- Medical Studies Validate NDE Reality:
  1. Confirmed observations of physical world.
  2. Meeting previously unknown deceased relatives during NDE.
  3. 80% of blind (many since birth) see during NDE.
- *Video: Blind see during NDE.*
  - *Vicky Noratuk, born blind*



# Medical Studies of NDEs

## 4. Transformed Values and Changed Life.

- No longer fear death.
- Greater compassion and loving attitude.
- Spiritual growth, know God exists, inner peace, sense of purpose in life (to love).
- Less appreciation of money & possessions.
- *Video: Transformed lives after NDE*
  - *Dr. Bruce Greyson and Gordon Allen's testimony*

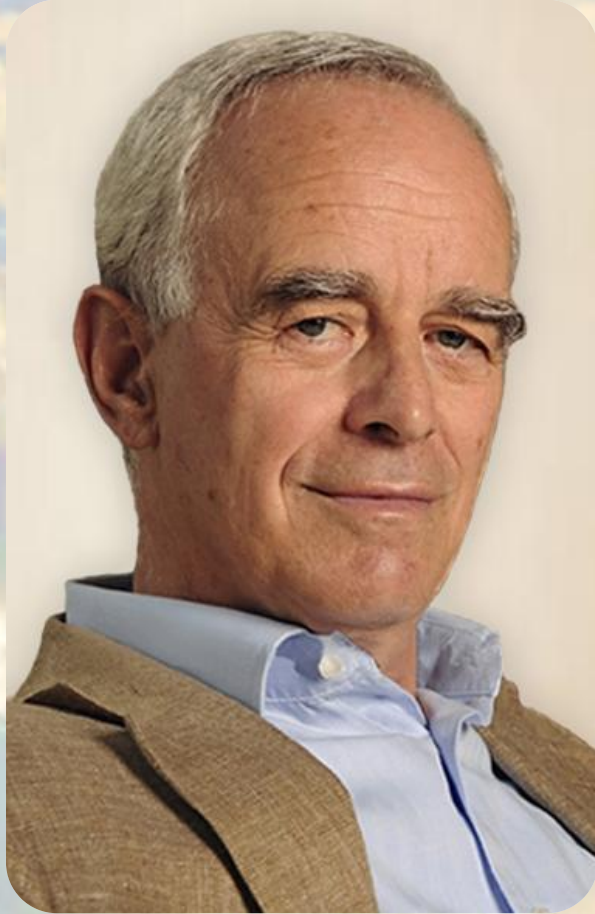




# Medical Studies of NDEs

- Medical Studies Validate NDE Reality:
  1. Confirmed observations of physical world.
  2. Meeting previously unknown deceased relatives during NDE.
  3. 80% of blind see during NDE.
  4. Transformed Values and Changed Life.

# Medical Studies of NDEs



• Dr. Pim van Lommel:

“Until now, the concept was that the brain is the *producer* of consciousness and the *producer* of memories. But when you study near-death experiences, we have to reconsider this concept: *perhaps we should consider the brain not as a producer, but as a **receiver** of consciousness.*” (Like a TV)



WE EACH HAVE A CONSCIOUSNESS THAT IS **NOT**  
DEPENDENT ON OUR **BRAINS** OR OUR **BODIES**.



**CONCLUSION**

WE HAVE **SOULS** THAT SURVIVE BODILY DEATH AND WE ARE  
**DESTINED** FOR AN AFTERLIFE OF **ETERNAL** PEACE AND JOY.



# Lest We Forget

(Not all NDEs are positive)

- NDEs verify reality of heaven—and hell
  - 5-10% report negative NDEs
    - Being in dark void or hell-like place

*“Suddenly I stopped in this dark tunnel and began to fall at enormous speed, faster and faster. Like I was literally hurled down, head-first, into this black hole. As I was falling, I began to hear screams, shrieks, heartrending, dreadful, terrible laughter, and the most disgusting stench you can imagine, and then the blackness changed to fire. And there were all kinds of ghastly and terrifying creatures who were snatching at me.”*







## REMEMBER

NDEs SUPPORT WHAT GOD HAS  
REVEALED, THAT WE ARE MADE  
IN GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS,  
WITH SOULS THAT WILL LIVE  
FOREVER.

***Video: Study Findings and Conclusions***







# Presentation Summary

- Overview of Near-Death Experiences
- Medical Studies verify reality of NDEs
  - Confirmed observations of physical world
  - Meeting previously unknown deceased relatives
  - 80% of blind see during NDE
  - Transformed Values and Changed Life
- Study Findings and Conclusions
  - Consciousness separate from body/brain
  - Reveal reality of soul and heaven/hell
- Critical question: How are we saved?



Dr. Peter Kreeft and Fr. Ronald Tacelli:

“**Salvation is the ultimate reason for our existence:** our end, goal, point, purpose, hope, and meaning. The difference between **success and failure in life** is not the difference between riches and poverty, fame and obscurity, health and sickness, etc., but rather it is the difference between **salvation and damnation.**”

“For as Jesus said, ‘What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul.’ Nobody ever asked a more practical question than this. In other words, ***don’t get all A’s but flunk life.***”

- *Video: Fr. Larry Richards is everyone saved?*







Next Session:

**HOW ARE WE SAVED?**

**The Catholic View of Salvation**

Steve Hemler & Teresa O'Brien



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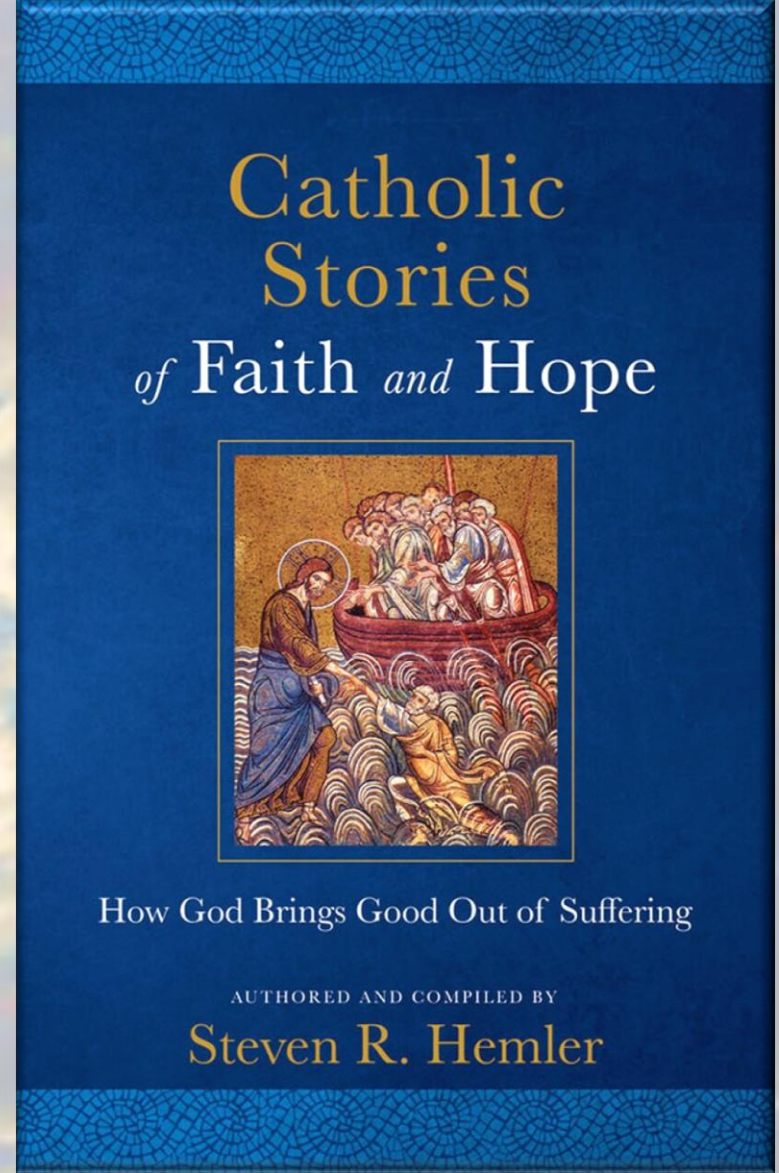
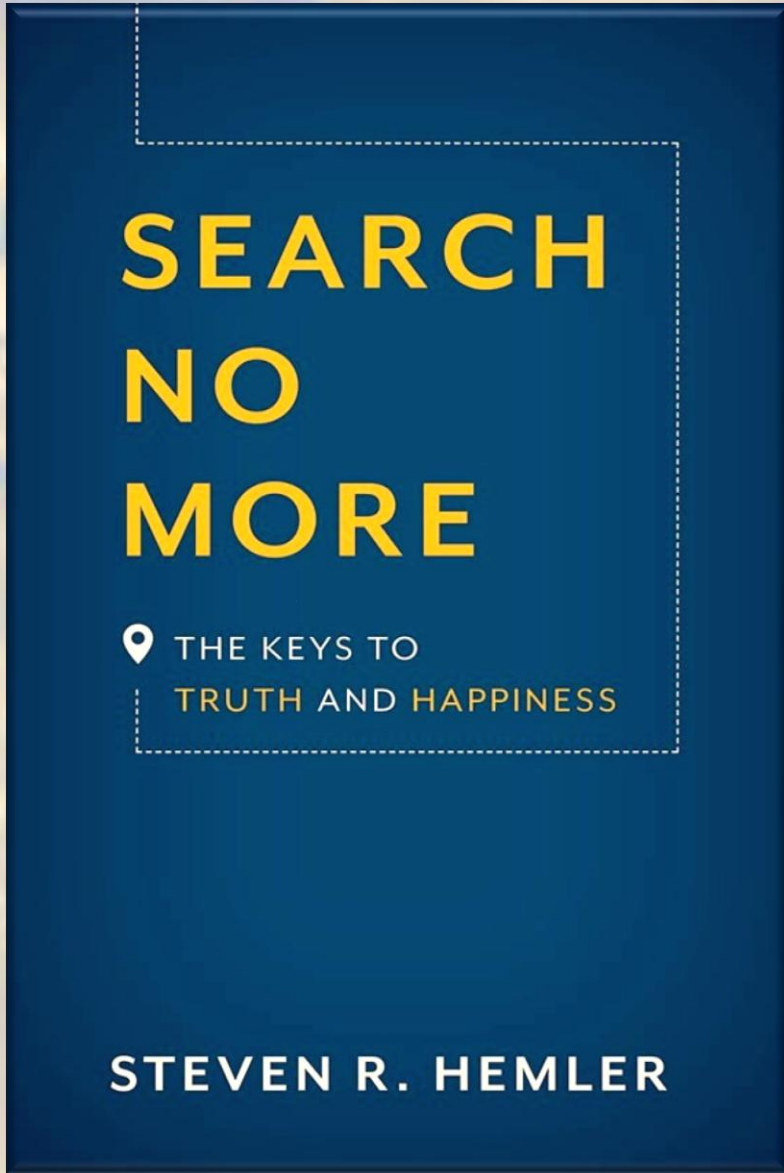
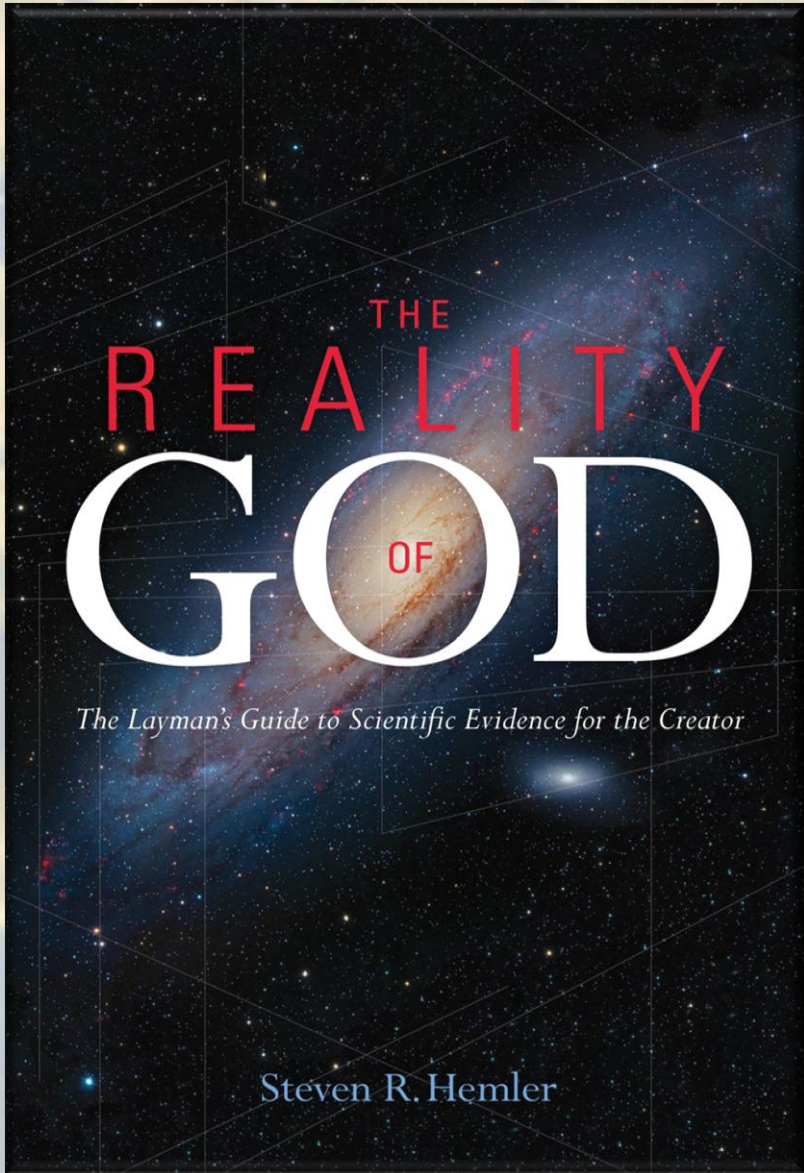
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# It Just Makes Sense



A Logical Basis for the  
Catholic Faith

Lee J. Granger

A bright, sunny sky with scattered white and yellow clouds. The sun is visible in the lower-left quadrant, creating a lens flare effect. The overall tone is warm and optimistic.

***Questions?***

***Comments?***



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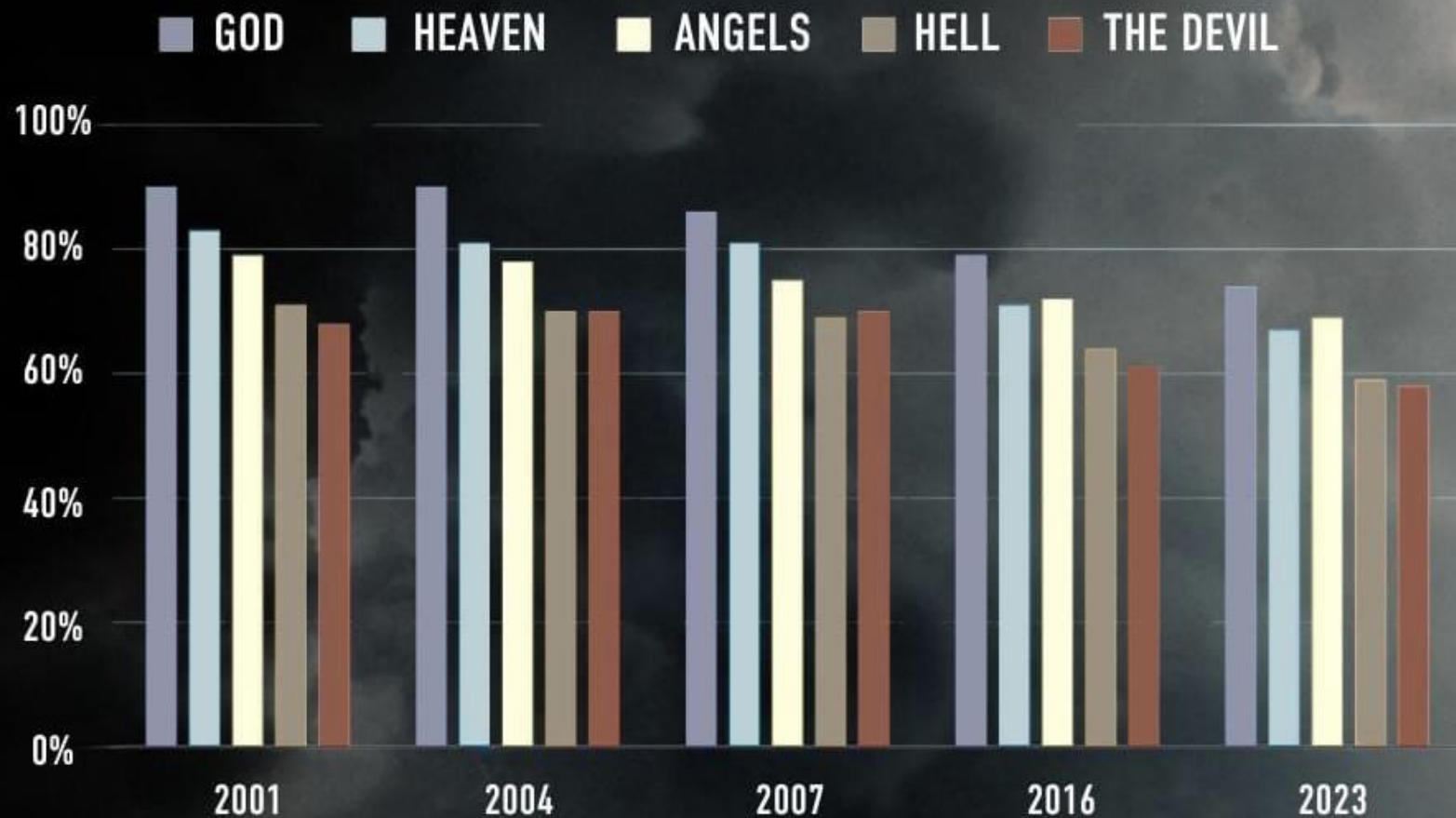
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# IS BELIEF IN THE AFTERLIFE DYING?



1,000+ U.S. respondents (18+ y/o) per survey round  
Source: Gallup

