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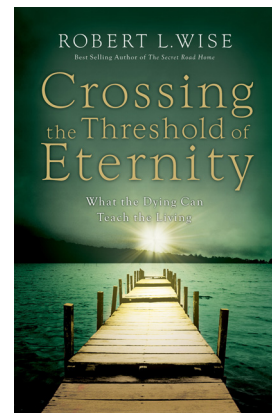
“Wise hopes to inspire readers to listen to those who are dying, ask questions that help them articulate what they are experiencing.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Understanding Death and the Dying

Dr. Robert Wise shares stories of afterlife accounts and near-death experiences

Los Angeles, Calif — Death is unavoidable, but most people avoid discussing the topic of death or feel uncomfortable when dealing with someone who is terminally ill. After standing at the bedside of the dying and listening to people who have worked closely with them, **Dr. Robert Wise** believes the living can learn from those who are dying and their journey to the afterlife.

Wise shares fascinating stories of death, dying and the afterlife in ***Crossing the Threshold of Eternity: What the Dying Can Teach the Living*** (Regal Books). “Many people shut down and avoid someone on their deathbed or don’t know how to communicate with someone who is dying. If we listen and observe carefully, the dying can teach us important things that we need to learn in preparing for the end of our own life’s journey,” Wise says.



Covering a wide-range of subjects, *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity* will help people overcome their hesitations and learn how to easily communicate to the dying, understand their feelings, perceptions and dig deeper into the following topics:

- Dealing with our common fears of death and dying
- How to tactfully communicate with the dying and ask life-changing questions
- Examining the existence of the afterlife through near death experiences
- What children have experienced when close to death
- The Seven Final Steps the dying most commonly experience
- How to help, encourage and comfort those who are dying
- Addressing the skeptics with medical and scientific explanations

Real Near-Death Experiences and the Afterlife

According to the International Association for Near-Death Studies, approximately 15 million people have had a near death experience and one-third of resuscitated people return with reports of the other side after having lost all their vital signs.

“People who survive near-death experiences will often develop an entirely new set of ethics or values, or change employment. They become more concerned for others, and friends report that they are more sensitive than before. Looking over the edge does change people,” Wise reports.

In *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity*, Wise uncovers fascinating insights with real-life stories, from the “inner voice” that saved Winston Churchill’s life, to a hospice worker whose patients have reported a number of afterlife experiences, to an after-death experience involving Christian author C.S. Lewis and a biblical translator.

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Caring for the Dying

The recent rise of hospice organizations has yielded many eyewitnesses who have cared for dying patients in the comfort of their homes. “We can easily talk to the dying and discover their final feelings and perceptions,” Wise says. “We can learn how to ask the right questions that will allow the dying to share their inner experiences.”

Wise writes from a Christian perspective, as a well-published author and archbishop in Evangelical Episcopal Church. He points readers to God, Scripture and faith to better understand death and dying.

While writing *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity*, Wise interviewed dozens of witnesses, talked to many people with near death experiences and studied reports on the subject. From this, Wise illuminates how people can better relate and help those who are dying. Sharing their faith, listening to the dying and paying close attention to their actions and response are key elements, Wise says. Ultimately, he offers readers hope beyond death.

About the Author:

Dr. Robert L. Wise is the author of 30 published books and has been the ghost author of six published works, including *The Death of Innocence*, the story of the murder of JonBenet Ramsey. Dr. Wise’s books have been translated into Spanish, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese and German, and he has been the principal lecturer for the Bethel Series, teaching in Canada, Germany and the United States. Dr. Wise is also an archbishop in The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches.

About *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity*:

Crossing the Threshold of Eternity: What the Dying Can Teach the Living by Robert L. Wise. Published by Regal Books. October 2007. Hardcover, 224 pages. \$19.99. ISBN: 978-0830743704.

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Suggested Interview Questions

Crossing the Threshold of Eternity

1. Why did you write a book on death and the dying? What is your own personal experience with people on their death bed?
2. Death has always been a taboo topic in our society. How can we move beyond “natural fear of the inevitable into a posture of confidence” when thinking about death?
3. You write, “A dignified celebration of death is possible.” What is considered a “dignified death”?
4. What is the role of mystery when talking about death and dying? How can people embrace that mystery? Is there any evidence to these claims?
5. You write about the death of Alicia, a young girl from Mexico who reported seeing angels and Jesus. You quote research that 70 percent of children with near-death experiences encounter angels. Are the experiences of children and adults the same?
6. Can you share some of the poignant near-death experiences that people have had?
7. What are the four different categories of near-death experiences?
8. What are some of the common descriptions of “Heaven” that people have reported? Have people had experiences involving “Hell”?
9. *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity* also tells stories about some well-known people having supernatural experiences. What are the stories of Winston Churchill? C.S. Lewis?
10. What are the “Seven Final Steps” that dying people most commonly experience?
11. You write that the dying often experience symbolic dreams. Why is this?
12. When we are encountered with dying family members or friends, how should we relate to them? What should we be paying attention to? How can we help the dying?
13. What is the role of prayer and healing when interacting with the dying?

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The Seven Final Steps

Based on *Crossing the Threshold of Eternity*

1. People Will Meet a Loved One from Their Past or Someone Who Loves Them

“In the encounters I’ve observed, near-death survivors report meeting a deceased person known earlier in their lives.” (122)

2. The Dying Do Not Meet Someone Who Is Still Alive

“No one ever mentions encountering a living person. People who have researched this phenomenon find this to be universally the case.” (123)

3. The Dying Come to Understand Why the Already-Deceased Have Appeared With Them

“One of the common events with those who spent a significant amount of time in eternity is that they reached a point where they were told they had a choice whether to stay or to whether to come back. Usually, they had a clear sense of a mission yet to be accomplished.” (123-124)

4. Returning Persons Cannot Give a Good Physical Description of the Deceased They Encountered, Though They Clearly Knew Them

“Heavenly experiences with the departed seem to be an encounter with the essence of the person. The observer has an out-of-body experience.” (125)

5. The Dying Must Deal with Their Past or Have a Difficult Time Dying

“As many people approach death, they close their eyes and drift into their own inner world. Often, they don’t want relatives or friends to bring them back from the important work they are doing. Even though they appear to be asleep, they are hard at work cleaning the skeletons out of their closets and getting their lives in order before it’s all over.” (126)

6. As People Start to Die, They Withdraw from This World

“A personal encounter with death appears universally to open eyes to a great purpose that has been missed or not understood. Withdrawing from the world at the end of life appears to help the dying accomplish this purpose. We don’t need to worry or fear when someone we love starts turning away from us as he or she is dying. This is normal, and it appears to be healthy, as the dying person prepares for death.” (128-129)

7. Near-Death Experiences Transform Doubts

“Atheists and agnostics change their minds about the afterlife after such an experience, almost universally.” (129)

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