



QA: Isn't My Dead Mother Watching My Children? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Question: Isn't it comforting to know my dead Mother is watching my children growing up?

ANSWER: It is a myth to believe that, after death, a person stays in touch with life on earth. This myth contradicts what God says in the Bible.

1. **Jesus clearly described the afterworld.** The rich man's soul could not be relieved in torment because the gulf between "Abraham's bosom" and "torment" is "fixed" and cannot be changed.

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

(Luke 16:27-31)

Jesus clearly indicated that:

- a. *The rich man knew only what spiritual condition his brothers were in at the time of his death, but **not since**;*
- b. *No one from the dead would be sent back to the land of the living "under the sun" to warn, instruct, or frighten people to change;*
- c. *The living have the Scriptures from God and if they will not heed and obey them, God will say or do nothing else to convince them!*
- d. *The departed souls can do nothing about effecting a change in the lives of those from whom they have departed, for death is truly a separation.*
- e. In describing what departed souls know about conditions among the living, Jesus precisely stated to the rich man,

"Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted and you are tormented." **(Luke 16:25)**

Each could remember what their lives were like, but not what was actively happening among the living.

Whatever people may say to try to minimize the finality of death is a denial of Scripture, which says, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (**Hebrews 9:27**). Death is a separation from life on earth, final, complete, and irreversible.

2. This is what Solomon's God-given wisdom also taught:

For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun.
(**Ecclesiastes 9:5-6**)

Those souls who have departed from life will never "have a share in anything done under the sun." And this means our friends and relatives who have passed from this life know nothing "under the sun."

For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun? (**Ecclesiastes 6:12**)

While it may feel good and be somewhat consoling for survivors to talk as if a departed soul continues to be aware and love as if they still lived, it is a false concept, hurtful to Biblical faith, and can confuse people who need to believe:

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.
(**1 Peter 3:12**)

— *jtp11, October 20, 2019*