

I was

dead for 48 minutes!

and saw

heaven & hell!

by Claus Winkelmann

On 8 September 1993 I was sitting in my office and fell dead from my chair. I had an anterior and posterior myocardial infarction (heart attack) and a stroke. That meant my life was over.

Fourteen days earlier I had been to the doctor to get a health certificate. I was to lead a company project in Saudi Arabia, for which I needed a medical certificate. My doctor told me, "Claus, if you manage to smoke just 50 instead of 100 cigarettes a day and to drink just a quarter instead of half a kilogram of coffee, you have the chance of living to 80."

I thought about it and said to myself, "You don't even want to reach 80. 70 years are enough." I didn't change anything and continued as before. Then came 8 September 1993.

The moment I fell dead from the chair, I left my body and watched what happened. My father-in-law came into the office completely unexpectedly because he needed something from me, and he found me. I was watching everything and thought: "I hope he won't try to resuscitate me." My father-in-law had always eaten a lot of garlic and stank of it, so I thought to myself: Spare me that! He tried to reanimate me and made an emergency call. We were about 1 km (just over half a mile) from the hospital, so the emergency doctor arrived very quickly. He discovered a dead Claus. He tried everything. He attempted resuscitation, injected my heart with morphine and used the defibrillator in order to save me. But it was all to no avail.

I was then flown by helicopter to Heidelberg University Hospital. They brought a dead man into the emergency department and did everything they could to get life back into the body. After forty minutes, they gave up all their attempts to bring me back to life. I was dead! Then the senior physician said: "Make him attractive"! That is their name for preparing a dead body. They closed my eyes, glued my chin in place, covered me with a cloth and put me in the refrigerated cabinet.

In the meantime, my wife arrived at the hospital. The doctor went over to my wife and said, "Mrs Winkelmann, unfortunately, I have to inform you that your husband has died." My wife showed no reaction as if she hadn't heard. The doctor thought my wife was under shock and repeated, "Mrs Winkelmann, unfortunately, I have to tell you that your husband has died." Again, no reaction. A third time the doctor said, "Mrs Winkelmann, please listen. Your husband is dead." My wife said to the doctor, "What is the meaning of this lie! My husband would never up and leave without saying bye to me first." At that moment, as my wife spoke out life over me, God had me wake up in the refrigerated cabinet.

Life came back into my body. I was cold and I called out. Then I saw the first miracle. The nurse, who had been working in the emergency department for 20 years and had already made numerous dead bodies "attractive", collapsed when she opened the cabinet. Next came the doctor who had declared me dead. He said, "Mr Winkelmann, you are supposed to be dead! I have diagnosed your death!" My first sentence was: "Too bad! I have found a better doctor!"

It is medically proven that the brain dies when it has been without oxygen for more than three minutes. My brain was without oxygen for 48 minutes. It has also been proven that the body suffers irreparable damage when it is without circulation for five minutes.

saw Jesus and heaven

Then I told the doctor what I had experienced during the time I had been pronounced dead. I left my body and saw everything they did with my body and heard everything they said. Later I told the doctors word for word what they had said there in the emergency department.

I was outside my body and suddenly heard someone calling my name: "Claus! Come to me!" I wondered who was calling me and turned around. Jesus was standing there and said: "It's me! Your Lord and Saviour! I want to show you what you are missing out on!"

We then moved through a tunnel of light at an inexpressible speed. At the end of the tunnel we stopped abruptly and I saw on a mountain a beautiful city that cannot be described in words. Then I said, "What is that?"

Jesus said, "That is the heavenly Jerusalem. That is paradise; that is eternity."

"I want to go there!" I said.

Jesus said, "No, you can't go there. Your place is there! Turn to the left!"

I saw hell

I turned to the left! O horror of horrors! I saw hell! I saw a lake of fire! Bodies, people, who are in it and screaming — screaming pitifully! They are caught in this fire. They know they will never get to heaven. They are trapped in hell for all eternity. I became frightened. I saw people there whom I had known on earth, including priests. I saw my father in hell. That made me cry. If he had only said “yes” to Jesus during his lifetime, he would not be here now. There was nothing I could do for my father. My father had led the church choir and been a member of the church.

I said to Jesus, “No! That can’t be! I won’t go there! What do I need to do, what do I have to pay, so that I don’t go there?”

Jesus said, “You can’t pay for it with money!”

“Then no one can make it,” I replied.

“They can!” said Jesus. “Accept me as your Saviour. Accept me in your heart.”

“I will do that right now,” I said.

“Too late! You have to do it while you are alive. Not after you are dead.” However, I saw a warm smile on Jesus’ face.

“Is there something else?” I asked.

“Yes,” said Jesus. “Your wife has been praying for you for 20 years! So, I am giving you a second chance. I am letting you go back into your body. You are to live again, but live in righteousness and live in Me. Are you ready to do that?”

I said: “Yes! I’ll do anything! Just don’t let me go to hell!” And so, I came back into my body and now get to build the Kingdom of God for Him.

The doctor who had pronounced me dead wanted to hear everything I had experienced. He became a follower of Jesus and invited Jesus into his life. Later I got to baptize him. I come from a village in Germany that has 280 inhabitants. Because of my story, almost all the people living there have given their lives to Jesus and I got to baptize most of them.

Jesus is also reaching out his hands to you. To you, too, He is saying: “Come to me! I want to forgive you all your sins and give you a completely new life.” All you have to do is say “YES” to Jesus. Receive Him into your life. Give him the lordship over your life. Say:

“Lord Jesus, I believe that you died for my sins on the cross. I believe that you are the Son of God and that God raised you from the dead. I now give you my heart, my life. I want to belong to you and I want to follow you. You are now my Lord and my God.”

If you want to follow Jesus, then buy yourself a Bible and start reading the gospel of John first of all. Join a Bible-believing church where God’s word is preached and where your faith can grow. Get baptized and be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sent to lead us into all truth and to open up God’s word to us.

If you have questions or would like to invite me as a speaker, please write to me:

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