

The Man Who Spent 23 Minutes in Hell: The People I Saw in Hell

In 1998, God gave me a life-changing vision of hell. I receive many questions about my experience from people all over the world, but one question I'm often asked is, "Who did you see in hell?"

There are others who say they've had an experience like mine, and they mention specific people they saw in hell. Some say they saw children and some say they encountered celebrities. Some also share that they observed Christians who didn't tithe, or women who wore jewelry or colored their hair. I saw none of this.

In fact, none of those claims could be true because none of them are biblically accurate. People go to hell only because they reject the saving name of Jesus Christ. Choosing not to tithe will not send a person to hell. Jewelry, hair, makeup or any type of clothing will not send a person to hell. These outward acts are not the reason people go to hell.

The people I observed in hell looked like skeletons. They were nameless and faceless. I didn't know their history, their politics or their skin color. I did not know if they were someone famous or a beggar from the streets. It didn't matter who they were; each of them was truly alone amidst a sea of tormented souls. They have no purpose, no identity, and they are forgotten.

I want to make it very clear that children are not in hell, according to the Bible. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (KJV). He also said in Matthew 18:3, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children,

ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

During my time in hell, I could see the outlines of people through the flames. From the outlines they seemed to be full-grown adults. In addition, the screams I heard were not the screams of children; they were mature voices. I will say that I also had an impression, an unexplainable internal feeling, that there were no children there.

As I look back on my experience, I’m reminded of the devastation of the twin towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Rather than face the 2,000-degree heat, some people chose to plummet to their death by leaping out of a window. Those people chose to fall to their death rather than face the intensity of the flames for even fifteen seconds. According to the Bible, hell is deep down in the earth, and scientists say it is 12,000 degrees. Try to imagine this state of existence for those in hell, and the fear that never ceases for even one second. This isn’t just for 15 seconds but for all eternity, and there is no way to escape it.

To witness people in terror, in desperation, and in unending torment was more than I could bear. The questions I receive about *who* I saw in hell are so much less important than *how* these tormented souls ended up there.

Bill Wiese is the author of New York Times bestselling book *23 Minutes in Hell*, the story of his life-changing visit to hell in 1998. Bill has since authored six additional book titles and continues to share his experience around the world. He and his wife, Annette, founded Soul Choice Ministries in late 2006 and have dedicated their lives to reaching the unsaved. For more information about Bill Wiese and Soul Choice Ministries please visit us at www.soulchoice.org. You can find more of Bill’s teachings at www.soulchoice.org.