

Is There Life Beyond the Grave?
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“Everything science has taught me and continues to teach me strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death.”

Space expert Wernher von Braun

The Evidence of Science Many authoritative voices in the scientific community such as Francis Collins, Hugh Ross, Paul Davies, John Polkinghorne, have declared a firm faith in the future life. Arthur H. Compton, Nobel prize winner in physics, confirms that “Science has no convincing reason against immortality because it relates to an aspect of life which is not physical, that is, which cannot be measured by any instrument or laws of science.”

Two aspects of thermodynamics have long been accepted in the world of science: the conservation of energy and the indestructibility of matter. Science tells us that nothing in nature – not even the tiniest particle – can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction – only transformation. Matter may change its form, but it is not destroyed. Likewise, the form of energy may pass irreversibly from heat to light, light to motion, motion to electricity, but somewhere in the vast reservoir of force it is conserved.

Now, if true in the physical realm, can it not be reasonable to assume the same in the spiritual dimension? Can the soul, the personality, the real you ever be destroyed? As Dr. Wernher von Braun put it, “If we believe in the indestructibility of matter, why should we hesitate to believe in the indestructibility of spirit which lies behind all matter?”

In the growth process, biological scientists tell us that each body cell re-creates itself every seven years. (Over the years I’ve been hoping that I would get a new and different face). Yet despite these changes, individuality and memory persist, along with personality. And so, does it not seem plausible that the real you will survive death of the body?

Those who are still sceptical over the reality of life after death should know that it is now supported by cutting edge discoveries in both physics and astronomy. These include concepts of multiple dimensions, anti-matter and a new understanding of laws governing time and space. Details are beyond the scope of this brief article. But there is new evidence to support the Jewish and Christian doctrine of eternity and spiritual existence outside of time and space. These concepts are not contradicted by science but can be shown to be scientifically credible and consistent. Science leaves open the doorway to eternity and through that door we may enter in and believe.

The non-physical part of us is not mythical fantasy. It is our truest essence, created in God’s image, the component that survives our life on earth. Rather

than picturing death as a destructive enemy, we are invited to receive by faith God's gift of eternal life, through Christ our Lord.

"No man has ever seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has prepared for those who love Him" (1st Cor. 2:9 TLB).