

***Sixth Sense* – Seventh Heaven**

by Daniel Borchers

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Many Americans hunger for spiritual sustenance to bring purpose and meaning to their lives. The cliched question about the meaning of life and the reality of the hereafter haunts and fascinates millions of people pursuing purpose to life and hope after death. Surprisingly, Hollywood provided profound insight into seventh heaven.

Sixth Sense became a blockbuster, in part, because it addressed these issues in a unique way. The movie's many memorable moments often contained unexpected (and perhaps unintended) depth. One such moment is when the young boy confides, "I see dead people all the time. ... They don't know they're dead."

What a profound observation, from a Christian perspective, of the entire human race.

Anyone who does not know Jesus is dead. Anyone who does not know Jesus does not even *know* that he is dead. It is through Jesus alone that we are *made* alive.

The New Testament speaks of this time and time again. Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6), the Resurrection and the Life (John 11), and the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14). It is through Jesus' name alone that we have eternal life (Acts 4:12).

But there is more to the story. *Before* Jesus, we were *dead* in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1). *After* Jesus, we have *newness* of life (Romans 6:4).

Sometimes we, as "born-again Christians," don't fully appreciate that foundational fact of the *New* Covenant.

The second scene from *Sixth Sense* which I'd like

to comment upon occurs at the end. If you've seen this film you know its *perspective-changing* conclusion. What you thought was the true state of affairs was really false. The plot twisted *sharply* – 180 degrees! – but *all things made sense*. In subsequent viewings, one sees that the producers were honest with their audience. Everything fit perfectly. The puzzle was complete. Yet there were sufficient clues to give the ending away to alert and perceptive viewers.



The Worldwide Church of God went through a major transition as it embraced the reality of the New Covenant as revealed by Jesus Christ. In some areas *our* perspective has shifted 180 degrees. Praise God for His revelation!

As many of you know, I was a keen prophecy buff interested in timetables and in the mechanics of life after death. Like the average viewer of *Sixth Sense*, I was startled by what others had long known.

Similarly, my views of prophecy are forever changed.

In looking at certain Scriptures with new eyes and fresh insight, I was astonished at what was there all along. The clues were clear to receptive readers.

Jesus Christ has given us *newness* of life (Romans 6:4). We are a *new* creation (2nd Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15). We have been born *again* (John 3:3-8). We are to put on the *new* man and be *renewed* (Colossians 3:10-11).

These terms and ideas are not new to us nor to any who have diligently searched the Scriptures, but, brethren, I ask that you think about these terms in

a new way with fresh eyes to prove whether these things are so.

Jesus commanded that we partake of the bread and the wine because they symbolize the New Covenant – our personal and intimate relationship with Him – our participation in His death, burial and resurrection (1st Corinthians 11:23-26). *Those* symbols are emblematic of our *new* lives in Christ Jesus.

Paul expounded on this theme when he wrote: “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4)

Paul continued: “reckon yourselves to be ... *alive* to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ... present yourselves to God as being *alive from the dead* ...” (verses 11,13)

Paul reiterated this when he wrote: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

The apostles unfailingly looked to the bloody cross and the empty tomb as their ultimate testimony of the New Covenant. It is by His death and *resurrection* that you and I *live*.

Brethren, you and I *live*. We are *not* dead as if we knew not Jesus. We are *alive*. We are *alive right now*. We have *already* been resurrected.

Isn't that what we've *always* said, that we are partakers of Jesus' *resurrection*?

In light of that unmistakable truth, my views on prophecy and on life after death have completely changed. After all, we have *already* been resurrected. Isn't that what baptism *pictures*?

Paul wrote: “And you He *made alive*, who were

dead in trespasses and sins ... even when we were dead in trespasses, *made us alive* together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” (Ephesians 2:1,5).

So, when Jesus says – “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power.” (Revelation 20:6) – Jesus is talking to *us* and He is talking about our *present condition*. We are – *right now* – partakers of the “first resurrection.”

Brethren, we are *alive now*. Jesus Christ lives and reigns in us *now*. The second death has *no* power over us. We will *forever* be with Jesus Christ in Paradise.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

