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- *Analogy of life as detours on a trip*
- *Levels of afterlife and types of guidance, including psychic phenomena*
- *Assignment of guides*

God is with you constantly and supports you all in your many undertakings.

We are aware of the intensity of the many feelings which flow from you all at this time. When you pray together, you send out a beam of light which is pure and strong and direct through prayer. This light enables us to reach inward to speak to each of you, in our own way, the truths of the reality of God. Each of you has needs, concerns and anxieties which you lay before God your Maker. Through the brilliance of prayer, God and all of us see more clearly that which you need for nourishment and for refreshment. Even without prayer, your needs are visible and your rejoicings are known, but prayer and the light that comes forth intensifies those radiations and enables God's response to each of you to be more quickly felt by your souls. Your joint prayers, therefore, infinitely strengthen the immediacy of your needs and hasten God's response to them.

There is no evil in having needs for oneself and therefore no reason for guilt. There are those among you who seek strength to know what is right in their actions and seek the power to endure that which is their proper calling. God realizes this need and provides the means of traveling along that path.

Surgeons must not only understand the nature of illness and want to help, but they must also understand the means to direct that help. That understanding is achieved through study, and so it is in your dealings with all those who surround you in your life. Many times the hand of God is not merely an elusive spiritual action which you can only have faith in, though not see. God's hand is frequently offered through your hands and God's help is provided because you offer it. Therefore, it is wise to think of yourselves as a part of the hand of God. It is God indeed who is leading you in the steps which you take. As you travel along this path, and it is a long one, remember that God does not just give you a gentle nudge to get you started; God provides the fuel to sustain the journey, if you but ask.

When you travel a long distance, you have no idea what detours lie before you, but when you are assured of the means by which you travel, you remain confident of reaching the ultimate destination. God does not provide you with knowledge specifically directed toward the elimination of detours but supplies you with the means of achieving your objectives. The matter of choice always plays a part in your travels through life or on the road. When the road gets rough and the temptation is to stop and turn back, though you have the means of going forward, it is *your* decision not to. And so it is, in being guided through problems in your life. You may ask for God's help and be aware of its presence and, for reasons known to you, and therefore to God, choose not to proceed. That is part of human life.

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By turning to God and asking for a means of determining whether to go forward and encounter the detours or to change your objectives, you will be given this information. It will not come as a clap of thunder in the stillness of the night but more like a gentle breeze which you can feel when your mind is relaxed and not concerned about other activities. With prayer, you will sense the rightness of a particular decision. This is as valuable and as direct a manifestation of God's guidance as any that are known to human beings. The statement, "Be still and know," expresses this perfectly. It is through stillness that we hear the thunderous voice of God as a gentle breeze.

You are also concerned about the numerous ways in which you become aware of the reality of a spiritual existence. The complexities of the spirit life and its relationships with human life are beyond full comprehension by those who live as you know life. You are aware of a kind of stratification in the spiritual development of all souls. This grouping or division is not a geographical one necessarily, but is related to the development of each spirit on its road toward oneness with God.

When you end your earthly lives, your spirit enters a preliminary phase of spiritual life whose primary characteristic is one of adjustment to the new freedom that is experienced. This level of spiritual awareness takes on numerous roles of varying length, depending upon the degree of spiritual development at the time of entry. For most souls, there is a strong pull to wish a return to an earthly life. This concern about their physical lives and the lives of those who still remain at your level frequently lasts for an extended period as measured in your concept of time. There is a strong desire to communicate with those still at your level, and in God's infinite wisdom, some are given this responsibility.

In order to bring your attention to the realities of a life which is continuous, spirits communicate as guides to those of you who seek them. This communication can take many forms. It may be through unexplainable physical acts. It may be through unexplainable psychic experiences such as an awareness of what will happen in the future or an awareness of what is happening concurrently. The diversity in expression of such communication is in some way known by each of you. When this communication achieves a substantive basis rather than merely one of extraordinary activity, then these are frequently devoted to specific matters relating to your lives and to the nature of your future lives. Those communications frequently are related to reincarnation and to communications from loved ones and even acquaintances.

In most instances, these communications about which you read are real. They take place in a manner that is difficult to explain, but is nevertheless factual. The spirits on the preliminary plane communicate directly to your own soul and your soul transmits this to conscious awareness. The viewpoint expressed by those who communicate from the preliminary stage in their spiritual life are in many ways limited in awareness of the true nature of the spirit, for they have only begun their journey. The matter of

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reincarnation is determined by God in accordance with the wisdom of its necessity and its time.

Those in the preliminary plane are frequently aware of the many souls who are entering that plane as one who returns home after a journey carrying them to distant lands. There is an excitement about the travels and a heightened awareness of them for a considerable length of time. But as time progresses, the traveler turns away from such attention to memories and looks to the future. And so it is on the preliminary plane that a soul looks ahead to what lies before rather than remains bound to the experiences of the life just completed.

For those of you who have not developed in spiritual awareness to a degree determined by God, you receive spiritual contact from guides in the preliminary plane. God also determines that for others there is need for guidance and direction and information, if you so wish to call it, which is available through the perspective of those who are no longer bound to their earthly lives as closely as those on the preliminary plane. We who speak to you now have reached this next phase in our spiritual development and because of our growth, we look forward, not backward.

We are concerned about spiritual development of all, and we tend to view particular problems in the earthly phase with a degree of detachment. We do not imply a disinterested approach, but we view the importance of the spiritual matters of earthly life rather than being weighted down by the physical and temporal matters of that life.

It is God who determines from what level your guides will be forthcoming. We ourselves have no full understanding of the criteria by which we are selected as your guides, nor are we aware of the criteria determining your sensitivity to our plane of existence rather than the preliminary plane. Although you are blessed to receive God's word through us, at times God sees a purpose in your being guided for a period of time by those at the preliminary stage of their development. It is God's sense of the appropriateness of our communications to your lives which determines at which level you receive them.

It is not difficult to be aware of which plane your guide resides in, for the nature of these communions is immediately apparent. Those messages which are centered on specifics in your daily lives are received from the preliminary plane. Guidance which directs your spiritual progress in achieving a more perfect understanding of the essence of God, independent of specific details relating to the lives you live on a daily basis, emanate from this next level. We are not bound by ties to our earthly existence. It is not important that you know who we are or what we have been or what we shall become. What is important is the quality of your lives as reflected by your expanding awareness of God's direction and love and peace.

In this explanation of a small part of the intricacies and mysteries of God's kingdom, you should not be reluctant to express your specific concerns as they relate to your daily lives. If it is God's will that you know of the future, you will be given such

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knowledge in a form that God finds most appropriate to your needs. You must always feel you can pray for specific help on any issue which concerns you. However, you must not be disappointed if you fail to achieve specific answers to specific problems through such communication as you now experience. If you seek definitive advice, realize that the answer you seek may be found in the truths of which you become aware. Such awareness can then provide answers for other concerns.

Rest assured of God's surrounding love and in the ability each of you has to receive guidance when you but ask for it. Your prayers are always answered, and now we bless you all with the light of God's love, that you may transmit that light to those you love.

Amen.