

## Questions & Answers

**Joel Martin, noted educator, researcher and writer, uses his extensive knowledge of paranormal phenomena to answer your queries.**

**Q** Why don't psychics tell us everything? Why do they know certain things and not others? Are there some things we should not know? Why can psychics see some future events and not others, such as warnings of accidents:—L.L., Miller Place, NY.

**A** Some events are destined to occur and thus cannot be changed or altered. Psychics cannot see or foretell such events. Perhaps there is a lesson to learn or it is our "karmic destiny" to undergo certain experiences, even those that are unpleasant or life threatening. To this extent psychics have limited ability and can only see or sense those things that can be changed or altered.

**Q** What do psychics and mediums say they see, sense or feel when they get impressions? Is it like someone standing there or a ghostlike or fuzzy figure? When they appear, do the spirits look as they did when they died?—J.S., Malibu, CA.

Joel Martin has been active in radio and television since the 1960's, as a producer, writer, talk-show host, and newscaster. For eight years he and George Anderson cohosted the top-rated *Psychic Channels* cable television series. A recognized authority on the paranormal, Martin is also an educator. Martin is the author, with Patricia Romanowski, of *We Don't Die: George Anderson's Conversations with the Other Side* (1988), *We Are Not Forgotten: George Anderson's Messages of Hope from the Other Side* (1991) and *Our Children Forever, George Anderson's Messages from Children on the Other Side* (1994).

**A** Psychics and mediums receive communications, messages or impressions in several different ways. Some have the gift of clairaudience or psychic hearing. The psychic voices they hear can range from static to great clarity. Some psychics are gifted with clairvoyance or psychic sight. In some cases psychics or mediums glimpse a materialized spirit, looking much as it did when on earth. On other occasions, a pattern or energy shape may be seen. Some psychics say they have witnessed entire scenes mentally, something akin to a TV presentation. There is also the gift of psychic sensing in which psychics obtain a sensation, feeling or impression which they interpret. Still other psychics and mediums obtain messages through symbols. One medium we witnessed told an anonymous subject he psychically saw a "spice rack." The subject acknowledged that her late sister's name was Ginger. When spirits do appear, they usually do so in a way that can be identified by the living. Thus they can be immediately recognized.

**Q** Can psychics or mediums tell what someone looked like in life: For example, if you showed a psychic a picture, could the psychic identify the deceased person from the photo?—L.A., Orlando, FL.

**A** Yes, often psychics and mediums can tell what someone looked like in life. I once conducted an experiment in which a bereaved mother showed a medium several photographs of young men to determine if the medium could identify her late teenage son. The medium pointed immediately to the correct person, remarking, "This is the boy I earlier saw materialized."



**Q** Do those with psychic ability ever concentrate on diseases: If there's a cure for cancer or AIDS, why can't psychics find out: Is such information available psychically?—G.L., Washington, DC.

**A** Perhaps there are such psychic solutions or cures to diseases. Unfortunately, until recently, very few in the traditional medical establishment would take a psychic's word for treatment or cure. However, psychics have a history of helping treat or even cure patients. For example, the great psychic-clairvoyant Edgar Cayce earned a reputation for his successful healings of many different ailments. He often prescribed treatments which, although highly unorthodox, were effective and prompted cures. In one instance in the mid-1980s, I witnessed a medium offer psychic advice that related to a treatment for AIDS. At the time there was no such treatment. But the psychic's prediction proved accurate several years later.

**Q** Do some psychics have to concentrate, or does it come naturally? Can the spirits be shut out by turning the ability on and off: Does the ability psychics have interfere with their personal lives?—E.J., Towson, MO.

**A** To some, psychic ability come very freely and easily. Others must apply concentration. For some, psychic information is always there. For others, psychic impressions may be sporadic. Many mediums and channelers only receive communications by going into a trance state, a form of concentration. Many psychics and mediums I have interviewed say they have to "turn off" psychic impressions or spirit communication so their psychic ability does not interfere with their personal lives. It is not very different from taking your mind off any other line of work. At times; however, nearly all psychics say they have received spontaneous messages or communications when they least expect them, awake or dreaming. As with other professionals, psychics and mediums

need to keep their private and working lives separate. One told me the answer, as with so much in life, is "balance." Psychics cannot work twenty-four hours a day.

**Q** Are psychics and mediums the same: Define these words or are the meanings of them used interchangeably?—T.R., High Point, NC.

**A** Both psychics and mediums obtain information psychically. However, psychics tap into an unseen psychic energy for their information or, in the case of mental telepathy, from the minds of other individuals. Generally we would describe psychics as those having ESP or extrasensory perception. Mediums obtain their information from the souls or spirits of those who have passed on.

**Q** Psychic junkies exist here. But on the other side, do they let go of this world or do they always want to know what's happening on earth?—P.M., Kingsport, TN.

**A** When souls depart this world they eventually move on and evolve in their new existence. Most messages from the deceased for loved ones on earth occur within the first two years immediately following the passing. Use this analogy. When you move to a new community you always remember the old neighborhood but you don't dwell on the day-to-day events. You likely will be more concerned with the new community you're in. Remember that even when our loved ones have moved on, they don't stop loving us. Eventually we are all reunited. But with everything, there are exceptions. Some spirits take longer to move on and adjust to the other side. A few linger here "earthbound" as apparitions or ghosts. Eventually even they progress to the other side, in most cases.

**Q** What's life like on the other side: What do they do about earthly needs (eating, sleeping, etc.). What are their needs?—A.L., Providence, RI.