

# Why Do You Want to go to Heaven?

By Al Felder

*“<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. <sup>15</sup>And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. <sup>16</sup>But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”* (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Heaven is an eternal abode promised to those who are faithful to God. It is a place for which many of God’s people have longed for as they lived in this life. Throughout the scriptures we can read of how desperately God’s faithful have longed for and desired to go to Heaven. When we carefully consider the scriptures it becomes clear why they wanted to go to Heaven, but what about you? Why do you want to go to Heaven?

Some people want to go to Heaven simply because they don’t want the alternative. *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”* (Matthew 25:41) On that final day we will either go to one of two places, Heaven or Hell. Hell, of course, is a place of eternal torment outside of the presence of God. It is a place of pain, anguish, weeping, and sorrow.

Some people want to go to Heaven simply because they don’t want to go to Hell. If there were another option, however, they would gladly take it. You see, some people would be fine if they didn’t go to Heaven just as long as they didn’t go to Hell. I’m afraid that people with this attitude will be surprised on that final day.

Other people want to go to Heaven because they have given into Hollywood’s depiction of Heaven. They believe that Heaven is a place where their greatest desires will come true. Each person will have their own personal Heaven full of all the things they want. Nowhere in the Bible does God give such a depiction of Heaven. This is nothing more than a fantasy from the mind of man.

Our question still remains. Why do you want to go to Heaven? Is it simply because you don’t like the alternative like some people, or have you given into the false ideas of Heaven presented by the world? In order to answer this question accurately we must understand what the Bible teaches concerning Heaven.

Heaven is a place of eternal life.

*“<sup>51</sup>Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and*

*this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* (1 Corinthians 15:51-55)

There will be no aging, no disease, no sickness, and no death in Heaven. When we see Jesus on that final day the Bible tells us that we will be like Him. The scriptures teach that our bodies will be changed. We will have a body that is suited for eternal life. Heaven is a place of life without end as the ages roll on.

Heaven is a place of reunion. *"And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 8:11) In Heaven we will be reunited with all of those in Christ who have gone on before us. Not only will we be with people we know in this life, we will also be with all of God's faithful since the beginning of the world.

Imagine, if you will, being able to visit with people you have read about in the Bible all your life. As Jesus said, people will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Imagine being able to speak to these great patriarchs. You can hear from David firsthand about his battle with Goliath. You can listen to Samson as he tells of his many adventures. You can visit with any of the Old Testament prophets, the apostles, or those in the first century church. What a place of reunion Heaven will be.

Heaven will be a place of security. *"<sup>19</sup>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."* (Matthew 6:19, 20) In Heaven you will not lose anything due to wear and tear, aging, or decay. Everything will last for all eternity. There will not be any thieves in Heaven who will be able to steal your belongings.

In Heaven we will have a home that cannot be destroyed. *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."* (John 14:2) There will be no floods, storms, fires, or anything that will destroy our heavenly home. Our reward will be ours forever. Nothing will ever be able to take that away.

Heaven will be a place of joyous worship.

*"<sup>10</sup>The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup>Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* (Revelations 4:10, 11)

*"<sup>11</sup>And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of*

thousands; <sup>12</sup>Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.” (Revelations 5:11, 12)

John was privileged to have these glimpses of the very throne room of God. What he saw as he had these visions was praise and worship being given to God.

Many people do not enjoy worshipping God. In fact, I have had people ask me before with a look of disgust on their face if I thought that in Heaven people would just sit around God and sing all the time. If that’s all I do in Heaven that will be fine with me. Just being in the presence of my Creator and Redeemer is enough for me.

Heaven will be a place of worship. All of the redeemed will praise God for all eternity. We will sing songs of praise and thanksgiving with the greatest melody that’s ever been heard. In Heaven our praise to God will never have to end. There will be no interruptions by the distractions of this world. It will be a time of joyous eternal worship.

Heaven will be a place of rest. *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”* (Revelations 14:13) In Heaven there will be no more temptations. We will no longer have the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit. All trials will be ended.

Heaven is a place prepared for those who successfully endure trials, temptations, and hardships while here on earth. As a part of their reward they will have freedom from these things. They will not exist in Heaven. It will be a time of rest from all heartaches and hardships. There will be no more pain and suffering. All temptations will be ended. The faithful child of God will enjoy eternal peace.

Heaven is a place of service. *“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.”* (Revelations 7:15) We will continue to serve God in Heaven. We were made by Him and for Him. That relationship will continue to exist throughout the ages. The scriptures do not tell us what all this service will involve, but we do know that in Heaven we will serve our Creator.

Finally, Heaven is a place where I will see Jesus face to face. *“And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.”* (Revelations 22:4) Of all the reasons why a person would want to go to Heaven, this is the greatest one. In my mind I can only imagine what it will be like to finally meet my Savior face to face. I know that none of my thoughts can even compare to how great that day will truly be. Some people wish they could live certain days over again because of something wonderful that happened. While such things are not possible, I do know that I’ll be able to experience for all eternity the joy of seeing my Savior face to face. That’s why I want to go to Heaven, what about you?