



QA: Is Everyone Who Dies In "Heaven"? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Is everyone who dies in "Heaven"?

ANSWER: One of the most misunderstood Bible concepts is that everyone who dies will be the same "in Heaven, as on earth." No matter what someone's life has been like, it seems at the funeral he/she will be continuing that life "in Heaven." A family sees their pet dog there playing "fetch;" another "knows" that their Uncle is pulling pranks on Moses; another "wants to believe" their Mother is cooking special meals for Jesus; still another says their family member "has joined the chorus in Heaven." People whose lives are in rebellion against God seem to worm their way into "Heaven." Whatever "talent" someone has shown on earth, we are told, will be added to the activities of "Heaven:" entertainer, singer, athlete, media personality, dancer, teacher, etc.

"Heaven" simply means "upward" and there were three "heavens" referred to in the God's Word. The Apostle Paul said,

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven. (**2 Corinthians 12:2**)

The Word of God begins with: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (**Genesis 1:1**). The first "upward" from the Earth's surface is the atmosphere we breathe and in which birds fly (**Genesis 1:20-23**). It is "under heaven" where eagles fly (**Proverbs 23:5**), birds live (**Jeremiah 34:20**), nations dwell (**Acts 2:5**), and Jesus' Name saves (**Acts 4:12**). The second layer of "upward" away from the Earth is the "heaven" we call "outer space" where the sun, moon, and stars reside (**Genesis 1:14-19; 15:5; Deuteronomy 4:13**). These two were the "heavens" God created along with "the earth." The third "heaven" is the ultimate "upward" where: God lives (**Ecclesiastes 5:2; Daniel 2:17-19**), the righteous are rewarded (**Matthew 5:12**), God's throne is (**Matthew 5:34**), and where Jesus is now.

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. (**Mark 16:19**)

Jesus taught disciples how to pray: "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven" (**Luke 11:2**). The God who created the "heavens" dwells in an unreachable "Heaven," where Jesus now is. Having lived on Earth, Jesus Christ "alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen" (**1 Timothy 6:16**). "Unapproachable" literally means "unable to go there," out of reach. No "space probe" can travel far enough to reach God's "Heaven!"

If "Heaven" is more of life on Earth, then the diseased, disabled, distraught, deformed, dangerous, and damnable would bring their terror and tears with them!

Heaven is centered on God, not man!

— jtp11, January 16, 2022