

Heaven or Hell Bound

"Thinking about Heaven can inspire and encourage us to be more heavenly-minded and realize that Heaven is a real place where we're really going to live."

~David Brandt Berg

Is God real? What about Satan? Is Heaven a literal place of existence? What about Hell? Although the Bible is very clear that Heaven and Hell are both real places, millions of people ponder these same questions and are seduced into believing the opposite. As a result, they believe life ends at death. Instead of looking into the Word of God and believing what it says about Heaven and Hell and what happens after you die, they've concluded that death means sleeping and existing in a state of nothingness; however, nothing is more further from the truth. The reality, according to God's Word, is the grave is not the end; it is merely a new beginning!

When you make Jesus the Lord of your life and are faithful to His commandment of love, you have essentially made your reservations to Heaven. Heaven is the throne of God and in John 14:1-4, Jesus talks about Heaven and how He's going there to prepare a place for us so we can be there with Him. Revelations Chapter 21 also does a marvelous job describing this literal place. Trust me, this is not something you want to miss because you've allowed an unbelieving world to seduce you into thinking Heaven is a figurative place. Don't be deceived; Heaven is real and Jesus is returning to bring all those that are His home with Him to Heaven.

As it pertains to the reality of Hell, John 16:19-31 tells the story of a certain rich man who actually went to Hell. These verses describe his experience in Hell, including its climate and the fact that it's characterized by torment. Isaiah 14 also describes this place

where Satan was cast down to. So like it or not Hell, just like Heaven, is a real place. It is a place of torment that was reserved for Satan and the angels that rebelled against God. It was not created for man, but when you set yourself against God by partnering with and doing the work of Satan, you are essentially positioning yourself to remain with in Hell with Satan for eternity.

In my book, *What You Need to Know About Faith*, I talk about how this world tries it's hardest to get us to exalt our physical senses (touch, see, hear, smell, taste and feel) over the Word of God. This is one of the main reasons people struggle with the reality of Heaven and spiritual things. They think it's not real if they can't see it, when the reverse is actually true. The things you cannot see are actually more real than the things you can see (2 Corinthians 4:18).

As humans, we're born, educated and trained in this physical world, and unless we renew our mind to spiritual things, we will also be held captive by this physical world. Training in physical things does not equip us with the ability to comprehend spiritual things like Heaven and the reality of life after death. We have to comprehend those things by faith in the Word of God. So when we talk about Heaven and Hell, we have to be sure we are looking at them from a spiritual or Word-based frame of reference.

To even begin to understand this complex topic we must explore and understand the anatomy of man. Man is a spirit being—he doesn't have a spirit, he *is* a spirit, just as God is a spirit (John 4:24). Man possesses a soul, where his emotions and intellect reside; and he lives in a physical body. Oftentimes, because we live in a physical world, we've been trained to believe the physical body is the bane of our entire existence, when in reality your spirit is the crux of your existence.

The spirit of a man is eternal—it lives forever. When we die, our spirit and soul separates from our physical body. Once that happens, we will separate from the physical world and be immediately translated into the spirit world, where our spirit and soul will live forever.

Heaven, Hell, angels and demons exist in the spirit realm, and it's only when we depart from this physical realm and enter the spiritual realm, that we will see the reality of this truth. The Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). This is only true for the person who is born again. For the person who is not born again, being absent from the body is to be present in Hell.

So what happens to the person who refuses to accept this truth, and dies having been bewitched by the world into thinking that Heaven and Hell aren't real? The harsh reality of their self-made reservation to Hell will quickly set in, and the truth they've heard and rejected will torment them for eternity. That's exactly what happened to the man in John 14. Don't let this happen to you!

If you're reading this article and you have not confessed Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, I urge you to give your life to Him now! Don't let another day pass without knowing with certainty that you're Heaven bound. Now is the acceptable time. You can be born again right now, wherever you are, by realizing and admitting that you are a sinner. Repent and ask God to forgive your sins; change your heart, your mind, and your direction. Then, confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9, 10). It's that simple!

Once you complete these simple steps you're saved and on your way to Heaven. The next step is to begin renewing your mind and pursuing holiness—or a way of

thinking that aligns with the Word of God. Get connected to a Bible-based church that will teach you the Word of God in a way you can apply it to your daily life and watch the power of God to transform your life. You'll be glad you did!