

DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN

Just imagine, in heaven you will ...

Look out the window. Take a walk. Talk with your friend. Use your God-given skills to paint or draw or build a shed, or write a book. But imagine it—all of it—in its original condition. The happy dog with the wagging tail, (not the snarling beast, beaten and starved.) The flowers un-wilted, the grass undying, and bright blue sky. People smiling and joyful—not angry, depressed and empty.

Envision the most beautiful place you've ever been—complete with palm trees, raging rivers, jagged mountains, or snow drifts. Think of friends or family members who loved Jesus, and are with Him now. Picture them with you, walking together in this place. All of you have powerful bodies, stronger than those of Olympic athletes. You're laughing, playing, talking, and reminiscing. You reach up to a tree to pick an apple or orange. You take a bite. It's so sweet that it's startling. You've never tasted anything so good.

Now you see someone coming toward you. It's Jesus, with a big smile on His face. You fall to your knees in worship. He pulls you up and embraces you. At last, you are with the Person you were made for, in the place you were made to be. Everywhere you go there will be new people and places to enjoy, new things to discover. What's that you smell? A feast. A party's ahead, and you're invited. A banquet unlike any you've ever imagined on earth. There's exploration and work to be done—and you can't wait to get started.

Imagine for a moment... unequalled health, excellent eyesight, impeccably straight teeth, eternal youth, endless stamina, uncharted intellect.

Imagine a flawless environment... waterfalls and rainbows, tame animals, ideal climate, crystal clear air and water... the music of creation restored in complete balance and harmony, with God Himself radiantly replacing the sun for light.

Imagine every last bit of sin and corruption gone for all time. No more temptation—only infinite righteous delight. No more struggle, no more regret, no more disappointment, no more sense of guilt... ever again. Only love, joy, peace, and freedom to obey with unlimited capacity for joy.

Imagine a society with unspoiled character, wonderful relationships, faultless laws, matchless morality, absolute freedom and security, skillful and enjoyable work, productivity, bringing deep satisfaction—all flourishing in an ocean of perfect love. Imagine possessing the very character, nature, and moral perfection of Christ Himself.

A place where you're not a number, you're not expendable, but you're supremely known, deeply loved, and profoundly appreciated by the great and good Shepherd—the one who specially chose you to be there.

Imagine unlimited access to the one Being who is the desire of all nations—forever united to His human body—into whose eyes we may continually gaze in gratitude, wonder, and love. Ideal intimacy, complete acceptance, undamaged union—us in Him, and He in us. Imagine the thunderous sound as tens of millions of angels sing pure praise to God. And the blood-bought saints raise their hands and voices and sing with all their hearts, as hot tears of joy stream from their eyes... from our eyes. Imagine the pure relief and joy and contentment of finally being home... home at last. Imagine the blissful prospect of a bright and glorious and endless future without any worry, any fear, any doubt, any tears.

Imagine glory. Glory beyond anything you've ever known on earth. A glory you were made to share, revel in, and worship. Imagine all this, only being the tip of the iceberg, as God lavishes on us blessing upon blessing, and incredible rewards for our good deeds long forgotten, as He puts us—the trophies of His grace—on display for the universe to see, just how good, how kind, how merciful, and how gracious He can be. Let yourself be transported there by faith—for God already sees you there in reality.

And one glorious, blissful day, your faith will become sight, and heaven on earth will become your eternal reality.

Resources:

- **Heaven** series, The Rock Church, May 24, 2015 by pastor Bill Young (http://www.experiencetherock.com/messages/special/?enmse=1&enmse_sid=28)
- **Imagine Heaven** book, John Burke, Baker Books, 2015
- **Heaven** book, Randy Alcorn, Tyndale House, 2004