

What is there to do in heaven?

The boy and his grandfather enjoyed many deep discussions over a broad range of subjects. They talked about bugs and rabbits and storms and dinosaurs and many other truly amazing things. The boy had grown old enough and large enough and his grandfather could no longer hold him in the rocking chair, but the best place for sharing these thoughts was still on the porch that overlooked the awesome view of the mountains.

One day the boy, fast becoming a young man, asked his grandfather what there would be to do in heaven.

“I hear in church that there will be rest, and a lot of singing. But what will I do there? Will there be games? Will it be more like school? Will it be any fun? Or will it be like being in church all of the time?”

The grandfather could barely keep the smile from his face. He knew how the boy wriggled impatiently during the services. He was typical in his energy level and short attention span. But the grandfather also realized that he was not exactly looking forward to an eternity of preaching. There had to be much more, and he believed that there was. He had his own view of heaven, which he began to put into words.

“It is not so much what we will do there, but what we will be – and who we will be with,” he said.

“You mean that we will be with all of our friends!” the boy exclaimed.

The older man was, of course thinking of being with God¹, but he just said, “Yes, them too!”

“Only the good parts of what you know of this life will be included – and they will be made much better. Maybe we will be adjusted to understand this better.

I think that heaven will be an extension of the joys that we feel in this world. For instance, do you enjoy being able to see in color? I know how you love rainbows! That is just another dimension, in a way, that God invented to give us pleasure. Beautiful music is another. In heaven there will likely be many more of these dimensions; we have only seen a fragment of the frontier of the beauty of Goodness².

What God wants from us is really very simple: to Love Good and Hate Evil³. Think about life forever without pain, tears, and any form of evil!”

“What about all of the stuff we will get as a reward for being good, for obeying the ‘rules’?”

The grandfather considered this, and finally said, “The reward is indeed great, but it is for everyone. It is not so much items that will satisfy our individual desires. It is not about what we will ‘get’, but how we will live. The true reward is being given a home with God, not a pile of toys or gold⁴. If we truly love Goodness, we will be very happy there. Our deepest needs will be satisfied⁵, and the reward as a result is infinite – larger than we can imagine!

“And speaking of the rules, do you know what the real purpose of them is? It is to magnify the Good⁶. They don’t just exist for their own sake.”

“I don’t think I understand all of that,” the boy said.

“Think about it this way,” his grandfather said. “You like candy, don’t you! What kind is your favorite?”

“I love any kind of chocolate,” he said.

“Think about going into a place where they actually make candy. When you enter, you are hit by the great smells of the chocolate that you love so much. You love just walking around breathing in those aromas⁷. So being with God is like breathing in His Goodness forever.”

The boy then says, “All this talk about candy is making me a little hungry!”

The grandfather smiles and says, “Then let’s you and I go get some!”

1. see Psalm 27:4, “; One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.
2. “...opening up yet another fragment of the frontier of beauty.” The Night I met Einstein - story by Jerome Weidman; Reader’s Digest, Nov 1955 and May 2012
3. Amos 5:15 and Romans 12:9
4. see Revelation 21:21; street of gold
5. “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ.” Blaise Pascal, Pensees
6. Psalm 34:3; Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.
7. 2 Corinthians 2:15; we are to be the aroma of Christ; Old Testament passages emphasize the love God has for the aroma of Goodness