

Personal Questions that the Bible Answers

**In heaven, will we find and know family members? Friends?
What will our glorified body look like?**

Get ready to search the Scriptures to answer those personal questions: [Matthew 17:3–4](#); [Luke 16:19–23](#); [1 Samuel 28:8, 11–14](#); [1 John 3:2](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3–7, 47, 49, 51](#); [Philippians 3:20–21](#); [John 20:16](#); [21:12](#).

Ponder how you'll initially answer these few questions *without* checking your Bible as the Bereans would have done.

— Is it possible that, when we die and our spirits will meet Jesus in our new heavenly realm, we'll see our loved ones there? . . . Is it likely? . . . Is it a sure thing? . . .

— Will we assuredly recognize them? And they us? . . .

— How about our Christian friends and neighbors? Noteworthy people in history? . . . How about OT prophets (Adam, Moses, Joshua, King David, Samuel, and so on)? . . . NT disciples (John the Baptizer, Peter, James, John, Mary of Magdala, Paul)? . . . Do you imagine that we'll see Judas Iscariot in heaven?

— Will family members in heaven, even old friends, be able to find, see, and recognize us? . . . Will we recognize them? . . .

— What will our heavenly bodies look like? . . . Will we have the same face, build, abilities, interests, and personality?

Are you ready to find the biblical backup for the answers to all those questions? Before we open our Bibles, we ought to start by answering this leading question: (Get ready to hear many different answers!) **Q.** What's the first thing you'll want to do when your spirit arrives in heaven?

I've heard many people tell me that the first thing they want to do when they arrive in heaven is "see all their friends and loved ones who have passed on before them." That will indeed be a blessed time!

When we arrive in heaven, we believers will finally meet Jesus, face to face. There, we'll also continue to devotedly worship God. Are you looking forward to doing that? . . .

The aspects that I can't wait to see and experience are . . . the glorious wonders of heaven! [no sun or lights; gold streets, etc.]

One of those blessings is that we will recognize our friends and family members in heaven, and they will know us. But! Our recognizing fellow believers in heaven is a "[secondary theology](#)"! *

Sounds great? Can you wait for that miraculous transformation? Let's find the biblical backup for those answers I've suggested.

Many of these answers deal with "recognition." Our ability to recognize people in the afterlife is suggested in several passages of Scripture. Almost all of them are in the New Testament.

I'll start this "recognition" aspect by examining what the Bible reveals about the transfiguration. Before we read Matthew's gospel account, think about the transfiguration. **Q.** Who was transfigured? . . . What happened to Jesus' appearance? . . . Who personally witnessed Jesus' transfiguration? . . . Could God's voice be heard? . . . What did he say? . . . Who appeared with Jesus? . . . Were those two OT prophets, who'd died hundreds of years earlier, recognized by Peter? . . . And, will you recognize Moses and Elijah and so many others in heaven? . . . Yes, indeed!

Q. Does the Bible document that people who've passed away and are in heaven can be recognized? . . . **A.** Yes! It's confirmed in [Matt. 17:1-5](#). This miraculous transfiguration account is also attested to in [Mark 9:2-8](#) and [Luke 9:28-36](#).

Though Moses and Elijah departed this world centuries prior, both remained distinct persons who'd not lost their identity to others, which implies that we'll somehow be able to recognize people we've never seen before.

In the New Testament, I found another example of a dead believer being recognizable in heaven. **Q.** Can you recall the [Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus](#)? . . . **Q.** In it, which two deceased believers in heaven were recognized? . . . And, who was it who, while residing in Hades (or hell), recognized both believers? . . . **A.** We'll find both answers in Luke's account of that "judgment" parable: [Luke 16:19–23](#). Remember [the purpose of a parable](#)!

In that passage, we find Lazarus the beggar next to Abraham, the patriarch of the Israelites. Luke assures us that Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man are *all recognizable* after death!

Here's an OT account of a dead believer's spirit being recognized: [1 Sam. 28:8, 11–14](#). In it, we see conclusively a deceased spirit's recognition: King Saul recognized Samuel the prophet when the witch of Endor summoned Samuel from the realm of the dead.

Okay. The Bible provides several accounts of deceased spirits being able to be recognized. **Q.** Do you doubt that *your living spirit in heaven will be recognized*? . . . The Bible says it will!

Q. How about years later, after our physical bodies get resurrected? . . . And, does God's word tell us what our "glorified" heavenly bodies will look like? . . . **A.** The Bible declares that when we arrive in heaven, we'll "*be like him [Jesus]; for we shall see him as he is.*" We find Apostle John's declaration in his first epistle: [1 John 3:2](#). And apostle Paul reveals even more about our glorified bodies in [Phil. 3:20–21](#).

In eternity with the Lord, we believers will experience a new body and exist forever in God's presence, in a way far superior to our lives today. Some of this is simply impossible for us to understand; certain things will be "revealed" to us when Christ appears on earth at the trumpets' blasts, to bring us home.

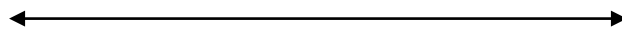
Perhaps this comparison from Apostle Paul will help you appreciate your new, resurrected, glorified body. Read [1 Cor. 15:47–51](#).

What an encouraging passage! Although our earthly bodies came from the first man, Adam, our resurrection bodies will instead be like Christ's glorious body!

Coming back to “being recognized as a heavenly spirit,” Jesus was definitely recognized after his resurrection! We see that documented in [1 Cor. 15:3–7](#). **Q.** Did Mary Magdalene recognize the resurrected Christ Jesus? . . . **A.** The answer is found in [John 20:16](#).

Q. Did some of the disciples recognize the resurrected Jesus? . . . **A.** Twice, Jesus appeared to many while they were in the upper room; the second time, Thomas was there. In [John's gospel, 21:12](#), eight apostles recognized Jesus and ate breakfast with him on the shore of a lake.

Being able to see our loved ones is a glorious aspect of heaven. What a pleasure it will be to reunite with our loved ones as we worship God with them in His presence, for all eternity!



Question:

In heaven, will we find and know family members? Friends?
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Answer:

The New Testament indicates clearly that our identities will remain unchanged. All the redeemed will retain their identity forever albeit in a perfected glorified body.

We'll be reunited not only with our own families and loved ones but also with every person of God from all ages.

Finally, knowing that Jesus was recognizable after his resurrection, it stands to reason that every one of us will also be recognizable in our glorified resurrected body.

* Open and print Warren's "[Primary and Secondary Theologies](#)."

— Read these two answers from [Got Questions Ministries](#).