

Faith in Five – Adults Heaven



1. The Catholic Church teaches that humanity will face two judgements: individual judgement and final judgment. **Individual judgement, sometimes called particular judgement**, happens at the moment of death when each individual will be judged on how they have lived their life. The soul will then go to Heaven, Hell or Purgatory depending on whether their actions have been judged as being in accordance with God's teachings or not. **Final judgement** will come at the end of time when all of humanity will be raised from the dead and body and soul will be reunited. Here all will be judged by Christ who will have returned in all his glory (CCC, 1038). The teaching on judgement is reflected in Matthew 25:31-46, in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, where God will separate the 'good' and the 'bad' as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
2. Throughout the holy Scriptures, Jesus and the disciples asserted the path to Heaven. Simply stated ([source](#)), in order to come to God and be saved, one must repent, have faith and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Jesus tells us that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5). In baptism, we are cleansed of our sins and made members of the Body of Christ. This leads one to a state of grace, to heaven. When we fall into sin, we must turn back to God by repenting and going to confession (John 20:22-23).
3. Through the grace of the sacraments of initiation, we are sanctified. We are fed by God's Word, and in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus declares plainly in John 6:54, "Whoever feeds upon my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day". By the sacrament of Confirmation, we are strengthened for mission work to serve God, and the Church. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are encouraged to walk in covenant with God. We do this by fellowship in His Church, obedient to the Word and will of God and prayer (Acts 2:42).
4. By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has made way the path of heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. Heaven is the blessed community of all those who believe, remain faithful to his Will and are perfectly incorporated into Christ (CCC 1026).
5. Heaven is described as the "perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed. It is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (CCC, 1025). Heaven is the fullness of communion with God which we will enjoy eternally. ([Source](#)) Heaven is heaven because God is there! St. Ambrose confirms that Heaven is a state of being with God: "For life is to be with Christ; where Christ is, there is life, there is the kingdom."

6. Scriptures share images about the New Heaven and New Earth at the end of time:
- There are mansions** – (John 14:2-3) “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
- All nations and peoples will worship Jesus** (Revelation 7:9-10) “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”
- Heaven will be filled with peace, joy and praise.** God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 7:15-17).
- Wedding feast** (Revelation 19:9) “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”
- A beautiful city, the New Jerusalem** (Revelation 21:2) “And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”
- Precious gemstones will adorn Heaven** (Revelation 21:19-20) “The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.”
- There are pearl gates and streets of gold** (Revelation 21:21) “The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”
- Paradise and The Tree of Life in Heaven:** (Revelation 2:7) “To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Revelation 22: 2) “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”
- God our Light** (Revelation 22:4-5) “They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever”.
7. This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. The Church calls this contemplation of God in his heavenly glory "the beatific vision". ([Source](#)) Each person will “see” or comprehend God in the beatific vision in accordance with his own capacity dictated to him by his state of grace at the moment of death. This state of grace is a gift from God . St. Cyprian further describes the beatific vision, “How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God, . . . to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God's friends” (CCC, 1028).

8. **What will we do in Heaven?** We have hope that we will know those we knew on earth and even others we have never met. When Christ was transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him before Peter, James, and John (Matthew 17:1-2). Though the disciples had never seen the great prophets, they recognized them, just as they recognized the Lord in His transfigured state. “Many will come from the east and the west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 8:11).

We know that there will be worship, praise and joyful service of God (Revelation 7:9-10; also 22:3). We will feast in celebration at the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9). There will be a reunion with our loved ones and great fellowship (1 Corinthians 13:12). The Catechism (1029) says we will continue to fulfill God’s Will with joy.

9. The Catechism of the Council of Trent, referencing the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas, outlined four bodily characteristics that await us in Heaven. Our risen bodies will be like that of Jesus. The Catholic Church teaches that our risen bodies will have: (1) freedom from suffering and death (in Latin, impassibilitas); (2) we will not be restricted by matter (subtilitas); (3) we will be able to move more easily and quickly than we do now (agilitas); and (4) we will radiate a certain kind of supernatural brilliance or beauty (claritas) ([Source](#)).
10. In what ways can we shape our lives in preparation for Heaven?
- Spend time with God, meditate on His Word and His Will
 - Repent of sins and receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
 - Make a commitment to Jesus, putting faith in His promises and living life for Him.

We will not know all there is to know about Heaven until we are there and God reveals it to us. According to St. Paul, “no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). ([Source](#)) We will have the fullness of joy in God, and gratitude that we will be with Him for all eternity!

**Now waiting for me is the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day—
and not only to me, but to all those who have eagerly longed for his appearance.
2 Timothy 4:8**

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