

Randy Alcorn/Part 1 – The Present Heaven

Randy is the founder and director of Eternal Perspectives Ministries and a New York Times bestselling author of 60 books, including *Heaven* and *Face to Face with Jesus*. His books have sold over 12 million copies and have been translated into over 70 languages. In this Zoom interview with Steve Silver, Randy answers questions about the Present (or intermediate) Heaven, as distinguished from the post-resurrection Heaven (or New Earth).

Discussion Questions

1. Randy describes the Present Heaven as “Paradise”—the place where Jesus Christ now reigns and all believers in Him immediately go upon death—as “better by far” than this world, but not the fulfillment of the ultimate Heaven (New Earth) which we will occupy in our resurrected bodies after Christ’s return and establishment of His eternal kingdom on earth, which is yet to come.

Question: Up until now, would you have you considered the Heaven you will go to when you die an intermediate place and not permanent? What do you think of that?

2. In describing what happens in the Present Heaven, Randy says we will meet and converse with others in Heaven and remember what happens on earth. He says we will be aware of our loved ones still on earth, see some of what they are doing, and regard them with great love and affection. He says we will be able to connect with faith heroes we admired but didn’t know on earth. He says the gifts we acquired on earth will continue to be functional in Heaven. Finally, he says that while Jesus will be our primary joy, He provides secondary joys in communion with our departed spouses and others on Heaven who’s loving fellowship we will enjoy there.

Question: How does this picture of life in Heaven align with your thoughts?

3. Randy believes (although he can’t prove it scripturally) that our loved ones in Heaven miss us, because they love us—however, without mourning and sorrow because in Heaven God wipes away every tear from our eyes (Rev 7:17; Isa 25:8).

Question: Is it a comforting notion for you that those in Heaven whom you miss, (because you love them) also miss us because they haven’t stopped loving us, even though now in Heaven? While not being able to communicate with them (because of the gulf separating Heaven and earth), does this reasonable possibility add to the joy of your memories of them, and anticipation of your reunion in Heaven?