



God: What Every Catholic Should Know

By Dr. Elizabeth Klein

Chapter Fifteen: God in Heaven

Read: Pages 123 through 132

Reflect:



- In Heaven, we shall see God face to face and will know Him as intimately as humanly possible. We shall feel loved more thoroughly than we ever have. We shall burst with joy.
 - ✓ Heaven is not a re-run of the best days of our lives on Earth.
 - ✓ Heaven is not a paradise of carnal pleasure – that would pall quickly.
 - ✓ Heaven is not boring. Jesus compares it often to a feast!
 - ✓ We will never tire of bathing in God's Presence, singing His praises, swapping stories with others of how His love and mercy worked in your life.
 - ✓ We will never stop marveling at others' stories.
 - ✓ We will see the ripple effects of every good (and bad) thing we've ever done – and shall marvel even more at God's mercy and love.
 - ✓ In Heaven, we shall be fully understood – something which we don't experience on Earth. We shall be most fully who God intended us to be. We shall be known through and through and loved.
- Death brings us face to face with God for our personal "particular" judgment.
 - ✓ Plan on Purgatory, says Fr. John Riccardo. Few souls are free enough from undue attachments to ascend directly to Heaven.
 - ✓ Death is a temporary separation of body and soul.
 - ✓ Our souls and bodies will be reunited on the Last Day. This confirms that our bodies are "good," as everything created by God is "good."
 - ✓ From the Rite of Catholic burial: "Life is changed; it is not ended."

Respond:

- At the Second Coming of Jesus, we shall be transformed "in a twinkling." Our glorified bodies will be as an oak tree is to an acorn. What do you think about glorified bodies?
- Are you afraid of death?
- Are you looking forward to Heaven?
- Has our book study helped you to understand God a bit more? Can you speak more precisely about God and about our Catholic Faith?