

# The Eternal Deal

Do you ever dream of heaven? Do you ever wonder what it's like up there? I guess that I picture a palace high above the universe. All of this resting on big, fluffy white clouds with gold fences surrounding the kingdom. Angel Gabriel sits at the gate keeping count of the people who might float in. All around is this constant glow and an almost humming din. The dwellers wear white robes and have halos around their heads. There must be a lot of people up in heaven, because God has loved for a long time. But all of this could be wrong. Heaven could be a field or a desert or a city. Heaven could be earth but we are just a part of nature.

How do you picture God? I'd like to think of God as a woman. Yes, generally God is referred to as a male. But I can't help but wonder at the possibility. To me, she is very old and has long grey hair. Her skin is wrinkled. She holds a wooden staff and wears a purple robe. She lives in my imagined heaven in the palace. Next to her is Jesus. They laugh together and love everyone. Up in the kingdom of heaven God is the last word. If she wishes for it to be night she blows and smothers the sun. Then she lights the yellow moon. Only to light a match to burn the sun in the morning. But who's to say that she's not actually a **he**

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and he's 25 years old and has red hair. Or what his race is or what his teeth look like. It's all up in the air.

We don't need to know what God looks like we only need to know what God wants with us. God is a negotiator, who makes deals with us. In confirmation we talked about how Moses negotiated and made a deal with God. After freeing his people from Egypt, God came to Moses with the 10 Commandments. Moses gave the 10 Commandments to the Israelites. They accepted them. They asked no questions, had no doubts. Because they all knew that this situation, this leader, this logic was better than the Pharaoh, So when God makes us a deal we should trust it. And if we hold up our end of the deal, we will get something better on our end, even if it comes in different ways.

God made us a deal. .... an eternal deal. .... Luke 3:16 says "*for* God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Here's the bottom line. We love God - we believe in him -- we trust God -- we do his word. And in return he loves us -- he gives us strength and an everlasting life of

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happiness and joy up in the kingdom of heaven. There we will wear the white robes and sit at his or her side.

But you might ask ... eternal life? We all die. In Ecclesiastics 7:3, God tells us that "death is the destiny of everyman." I interpret this by thinking that death is our destiny but not our end. Who knows when our end will come or how long heaven will hold us.

In the eternal deal God gives help in our time of need. Let's say you just made a mistake. Get down on your knees and pray. Find God in your own way so you can get help.

As always in a deal there are two sides. God has given us his part so it's time for us to hold up our end of the bargain. The scriptures say that we have to believe in him but that doesn't just mean believe. It means to do what God believes in. So maybe you work the next few roast beef dinners, or help out with the youth group. You could volunteer at Matthew 25 Farm. That's all God's work. Then you go to church on Sunday to reflect, but the worshipping doesn't have to end there. You can always do good. Good is everywhere, you just have to find it. Do good because there is someone out there looking for

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good. Why not have it be your good that is found? So maybe we all end up in the palace in the clouds. With Vikings and Huns. Or maybe we will see Thomas Edison or Helen Keller. You could catch a glimpse of Lincoln or Mother Teresa. All up in Heaven. Or maybe we'll get to meet the school children from New Town. But if we see each other up there I'll know that you and I did good and kept God's eternal deal.