

Revelation 4:1-3 (NLT2)

Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.

The beginning of November was the 34 year anniversary of my dad going to heaven. Now I don't tell you this so that you would feel sorry for me or even to make you sad, because I am happy that my dad went to heaven, because he is no longer suffering with all that he had gone through and the pain that he was in the last few months of his life. So I rejoice that my dad is pain free, and more so that he is in heaven.

But once again, that was 34 years ago and I was in my late 20's when it happened. And when someone we love that we know are a Christian fall asleep (dies), we know that they are in heaven; therefore, we have confidence that they are with the Lord, just as Paul said.

✠ **2 Corinthians 5:8** *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

And we are also told to comfort one another in regards to those who went to heaven with the following words.

✠ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, and even throughout the year, we think about those who went to heaven and what they saw when they first get to there, as we just read that, "**to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**" and that is an awesome thing to think about, that when they go to heaven, they (and we) will get to see our Lord and Savior Jesus, Face to face.

But it being 34 years since my dad went to heaven, I no longer think of what my dad first saw when he got there, but I now I wonder, *“What has my dad been doing up there in heaven for the last 34 years?”*

Maybe you have someone or even several people that you love that you know are in heaven right now, and they have been there for possibly several years. I know my grandma has been there for over 45 years. I wonder what she has been doing for over 45 years in heaven? My mom has been in heaven less then 5 years, and other grandma has been there about 10 years, so I have the same thoughts about them as well.

Sorry, but this devotional does not have an answer, but it’s intent is to give you a hope that we will see them one day soon, and when we do, we can then ask them, *“What have you been doing all these years?”* Isn’t it exciting just to think about all the awesome things they have been doing. And not just doing, but doing those things as well as seeing and being with our Lord and Savior Jesus, in the presence of GOD, pain free, no worries or crying, no more hunger or bills to be paid. No homeless people sleeping in the streets or traffic jams. No murder or having to lock your doors or afraid to even take a walk down the street, and that we get to do those same things with them once we are there!

Simply, they are have the time of their eternal life!

† **1 Thessalonians 4:18** *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*