

people  
from  
heaven

*How to Engage  
the Cloud of Witnesses*

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AGE TO COME  
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TO MY CHILDREN

who have made hanging out with  
the cloud of witnesses  
1000 times more fun.





# Introduction

The Bible talks about a “cloud of witnesses”—people who served God during their life on earth and are alive in heaven now (Hebrews 12:1). I knew that when believers die they go to heaven. I used to think they sat around all day eating chocolate and watching earth events like it was a movie they could see but not participate in. Then I realized that would be beyond boring. God has real responsibility for them in heaven. Their time is filled with doing amazing things.

But I thought there was a rule or barrier or some law of physics that kept them in heaven and us on earth. I knew angels could go to and from heaven. I knew God could. I knew Jesus said he was the ladder between heaven and earth (John 1:51). I just didn’t think people could actually walk on that ladder. I thought I’d have to die and go to heaven before I could meet with anyone from the cloud of witnesses.

My thinking shifted about seven years ago when people from heaven started coming into my worship time with God. My own understanding of who they are and why it’s important that we interact with them has grown a lot over the last few years. I’m sure it will grow even more in the future. Although I don’t understand everything, I want to share with you what I have learned. I hope it will spur you on your own adventures.

I believe interacting with people from heaven is going to be one of the most important things we can do in this season. They have things to give us, encourage us in, and pull us into. And of course we share responsibility with them to govern the universe from heaven.

One of the biggest issues people on earth tend to have with interacting with people from heaven is we think, “But they’re dead! Isn’t that necromancing (communicating with the dead)?” Most of them have died, but they are not dead. Like Jesus, they passed through death and are now alive. I have never spoken to a dead person in heaven.

The rules against communication with the dead were never meant to ban interaction with the cloud of witnesses. The Bible does forbid things like

divination, sorcery, witchcraft, and consulting the dead (Deut. 18:10-11). But the Bible encourages hearing prophetic words from God, consulting God's Spirit, and receiving guidance from heaven—including, as we will see, people from heaven.

The prohibition against things like divination, witchcraft, and necromancing wasn't a rule against supernatural communication. It was about the source of the information and the process that was used to divine it. In practices like divination, sorcery, and necromancing (especially as practiced in the cultures in the Middle East in biblical times), users often consulted demonic spirits or engaged in practices like child sacrifice (Deut. 18:10, NET Bible notes). God wanted his people to have a pure and holy source of supernatural communication. The prohibition against these practices is in the same vein as rules against adultery or incest. God didn't intend to prohibit all sexual acts—just the ones that would be hurtful and counterproductive. Engaging heaven through God's Spirit is never prohibited in the Bible. It's encouraged!

Saints in heaven are not ancestral spirits worshipped in some religions. They are not demons or familiar spirits that fortune tellers connect with. They are just like you and me. Well, just like how you and I will be after we've hung out in heaven for a while. Suggesting that a saint from heaven is like the spirit of a dead person is like meeting an angel and suggesting it is a demon. You can talk with angels and that is biblical. (People in the Bible do it.) You can talk with demons and that is forbidden. In the same way, you can talk with someone from heaven and that is biblical. You can talk with a demonic spirit and that is forbidden.

I hope this basic guide will jump start your own journey with God and the saints. I hope it will make you crave more from God. Meeting people from heaven has profoundly shaped my own walk with God. Now I can't imagine trying to grow spiritually and fulfill what I'm supposed to do on the earth without them!

*Chapter One*

# My Introduction to the Cloud of Witnesses

My life changed dramatically when I decided to worship God every night before I went to bed. I'm not talking about playing a few praise songs and then calling it a night. I would worship until I came into God's presence—until I could literally feel the atmosphere around me changing and I could encounter God. At first it would take me thirty or forty minutes of focusing on God in worship before I could feel the atmosphere shift. But it was worth the effort. The joy and peace and health that radiated from God's presence began to transform me. One second in his presence could bring more life to me than months of other things I was doing to draw near to him.

To me it felt like stepping into the sun. When we walk outside on a sunny day, we're automatically hit by light and heat—because that's what the sun is. Stepping into God's presence, we are hit by what God is. God doesn't have peace and joy and health and love. He is those things—and much more. Who God is radiates out from him like heat and light pour out of the sun. Just coming into his presence literally restored my health. It filled me with joy. It was so incredible I had to do it every night.

At first when I worshipped I would just feel God's presence. After a year or so of worshipping God every day, I began to see angels as I worshipped. I'd catch a quick glimpse of an angel here or there. Or I'd see an angel coming to give me something as I worshipped. I figured the angels were carrying messages from God for me. After all, the word "angel" means "messenger."

I didn't want to miss God's messages. So I wouldn't brush off these glimpses of angels. I'd walk over to where I thought I had spotted an angel and say, "I'm ready to receive God's message that you're bringing me." Normally, I wouldn't see or hear anything else. But I wouldn't give up. I'd focus my attention on where I thought an angel may be, staring for a couple minutes at a wall or window or wherever I had caught a glimpse of something supernatural.

I didn't realize it at the time, but by focusing my spiritual eyes and ears on a spot, I was developing an ability to hear and see in the spiritual world. Hebrews says that the mature are those who have trained their spiritual senses by constant practice to discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14). By concentrating my spiritual eyes and listening as well as I could with my spiritual ears, I was "practicing." Even when I didn't end up hearing or seeing anything, I was building a capacity within my spirit to receive information from the spiritual world.

Sometimes I'd start to hear a message, but then I couldn't really make it out. Instead of giving up, I'd say to the angel, "Could you talk louder? I'm having trouble hearing you. Could you repeat your message as loud as you possibly can?"

A couple times after I'd say that, I'd immediately hear the angel shouting, "GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOU IS . . . ."

"There's no need to yell at me," I'd say. "Oh, wait. I guess I did ask you to shout as loud as you could."

Slowly, I began to hear and see angels more clearly. Over time I became quite used to interacting with them. Not only in worship, but just about anywhere angels would come up to me—at church, in businesses, at friend's houses. I had learned how to interact with angels in the spiritual world. So they would approach me with messages—or just to chat.

## First Encounter with the Cloud of Witnesses

When I had been worshipping God every night for about three or four years, I started to notice something else as I worshipped. In addition to feeling God's presence, in addition to seeing angels—I started seeing people in my worship times.

At first the people would appear just every so often. They'd stand off to the side. I'd just ignore them. Then I started seeing them more and more frequently. But they were still in the background or off to the side. I still ignored them.

Then one night a group of about six of them stood right in front of me. I couldn't ignore them anymore. Looking at them, I was surprised to "recognize" one of the men. It was John Huss, a forerunner of the Reformation who had been martyred for his beliefs—including the belief that everyone should be able to read the Bible in their own language. I didn't know what to do. I had just studied Huss in seminary. In fact, I had been telling God I thought he died for a "stupid" reason. "Reading the Bible in your own language isn't essential to salvation. He gave his life for a non-essential. Dumb move," I told God. Now Huss was standing in my bedroom.

Then he spoke to me. He was probably the first person from the cloud of witnesses who spoke to me. (Actually, I had had others speak to me before that, but I thought I was having a "vision" of something that wasn't actually happening. This time I knew these people were really there.) He told me to read something that he had written. I was thinking, "Should I be talking to you? Should you be talking to me? Shouldn't you be in heaven? What are you doing here?" But I didn't say anything. Then they all disappeared.

Later I thought, "What harm could be done by reading something the man wrote?" As I read his beliefs—the beliefs he gave his life for—Jesus started moving my heart. I realized Huss hadn't been stupid. "He

died because he wanted to release the next thing you wanted to do on the earth,” I told God. “If people couldn’t read the Bible in their own language, nothing else you wanted to do after that could have happened.” It wasn’t stupid to give your life for a non-essential. It was beautiful.

“I want you to have that same attitude in your life,” Jesus was telling me. As a result of that brief interaction with Huss, I realized Jesus wanted me to be willing to lay down my life to release the next thing he wanted to do—even if it’s a non-essential.

## Not My Imagination

My first encounter with what the Bible calls the cloud of witnesses was changing my life. But it also left me with a lot of questions. Why didn’t Jesus answer the question I had about John Huss? Why did Huss himself answer it? Is it OK to talk to people in heaven? Aren’t they “dead”?

After encountering Huss, I began to see other people from the cloud of witnesses sort of regularly. They’d pop into my worship time. One of the people I saw the most often at first is a man who lived 100 years ago named William Branham. The first time I saw him he just stood right in front of me all of a sudden. Somehow I knew it was him. I had heard about him and knew he was alive in the early 20th century. I wasn’t sure when he had died.

He told me, “Watch my 1953 Chicago campaign.” Then he disappeared.

“Was he alive in 1953?” I thought. “I don’t think so.” Immediately, I googled “William Branham 1953 Chicago.” Up came a video clip of the meeting. It was the only video clip I could find of his campaigns. (I’m sure others exist. I just couldn’t find them.)

I watched the video. It was impressive. But I think what God really wanted me to know is that I wasn’t making up these encounters with people from heaven in my head. What are the odds that my mind would come up with a random date and city—and have that be the only year and place with a video of his healing campaign? (Or at least the only one that

would pull up easily online at the time.) If my mind were to guess a date, it wouldn't have chosen 1953 because I didn't think he was alive then. God wanted me to know I wasn't imagining things. I really was seeing people from heaven.

But I still wasn't sure if it was OK to talk to them. I hadn't actually spoken to any of them yet. They had said things to me. But I had been silent.

## **Can't I just talk to Jesus?**

Then one night I was hanging out with Jesus asking him questions about heaven. It was quite lovely. Then Jesus announced, "I'm going to let someone else answer the rest of your questions." And off he went.

As I stared in the direction Jesus had just disappeared in, a man stepped out of heaven and into my room. "I was talking to Jesus," I protested. "I want to keep talking to Jesus." But I realized Jesus wasn't coming back. With a sigh, I asked, "Who are you?"

"John Bunyan," he answered.

"Oh great," I thought to myself. "Isn't that the name of the main character in *Pilgrim's Progress*? Now I'm having a conversation with a fictional character from a book."

But I went ahead and asked him my questions about heaven. His answers sounded both profound and biblical. After chatting for a while about heaven, he turned to leave.

"I want to give you some advice as an author," he offered. "Don't write for your publishers. Write for the people who will be reading your books." Then he left.

Later I looked up John Bunyan. He was the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, not a character in the book. Bunyan's book is listed among the best selling books of all time. He was a very successful author. Again, God was letting me know I wasn't imagining these interactions. My brain thought Bunyan was a fictional character. If my mind were going to make up an interaction with someone, it wouldn't be with a fictional character.

Then I started thinking about how Jesus told me he wanted “someone else” to answer my questions. Jesus wanted me to talk to someone from heaven. Why? Why wasn’t my talking to Jesus about heaven good enough for him? It was good enough for me. Maybe Jesus valued the perspectives the saints had on heaven. Maybe he valued their perspectives so much that he wanted me to hear them. More than that, maybe he valued the people in heaven so much that he wanted me to meet them. He wanted my life to be enriched by them just like his life had been enriched by deep, meaningful friendships with them. Maybe he wanted to open up to me the breadth of relationships he enjoyed in heaven. He couldn’t keep the joy of knowing this great cloud of witnesses from me any longer.

But is that biblical? Do people in the Bible talk to people in heaven? I realized people talked to angels in the Bible. But where do they talk to people in heaven?

I was about to discover the answer to that question in a bizarre way.

## **Where is this in the Bible?**

My husband and I attended a Christian conference over New Years. On New Year’s Day, I woke up to a figure in a long black robe with a hood pulled over his face standing next to my hotel bed. I thought he looked like the Grim Reaper.

“Find out who the man standing in the grove is in Zechariah 1,” the hooded figure told me. “I’ll be back tomorrow.”

Although he hadn’t seemed scary, it certainly looked like I had experienced a visitation from the pit of hell. “But what harm can come from studying Zechariah 1?” I thought. I investigated. I came to a conclusion.

When the hooded figure came back the next night (this time standing next to my own bed), I realized he was a representation of the Spirit of Prophecy. His black cloak stood for hidden things—things about God and the Bible that are not widely known.



At first I thought the man in Zechariah 1 was an angel. But the Bible didn't say "angel." The text said "man." So then I concluded that the man in the grove must be Jesus. But later I realized it was probably just what the Bible said—a man. In this encounter Zechariah was talking to an angel in heaven. And he was talking to a person in heaven. There was the type of passage I was looking for in the Bible! A person alive on earth was talking to a person alive in heaven.

## More Passages

Zechariah talked to people in heaven far more than in that one vision, I realized. In chapter 2, he spoke to a "man" who was leaving heaven to do something on earth (Zech. 2:1-2). An angel referred to this person from heaven as a "young man" (Zech. 2:4). The word in Hebrew is *naar*—a word always used for a person, not an angel. In the next chapter, God made a shocking promise—not just to Zechariah and his generation, but to all of us. God declared: "I will give you free access among those standing here" (Zech. 3:7) (NASB). Where was he standing? Who was there? Zechariah was in heaven, surrounded by God Himself, by angels, and by people living in heaven.

In the middle of a series of visions where Zechariah is talking to God, to angels, and to people in heaven, God grants "free access" to interact with everyone in heaven. What is free access? It's the right to come and go and whenever we want. It's the right to interact with whoever is there. God has given us the right to go in and out of heaven and to interact with anyone there—God, angels, and people.

If we think about it, having free access to interact with anyone in heaven makes sense. God certainly permits us to talk to him anytime we want to. Could an angel or person be more powerful or important than God? So if we can talk to God, why couldn't we talk to anyone else? If I have permission to talk to the CEO, to come straight into his office anytime I want, then why couldn't I talk to his son or daughter?

And we certainly will talk to angels and people in heaven—once we live in heaven permanently. Can you imagine spending all of eternity with the cloud of witnesses but never talking to them? Can you imagine telling your grandmother or the Apostle Paul, “Sorry, I can’t talk with you. I only talk to God.” In the Bible, when Zechariah and others encountered people from the cloud of witnesses, they never said, “Sorry, I have to die first before I can talk to you. Can you wait 40 years?” They had no problem accepting the benefits God was giving them—the right to interact with all of heaven—now. They didn’t wait until they died to open that gift.

I figured, if Zechariah could talk to saints living in heaven, then why couldn’t I? If Zechariah didn’t have to wait until he died to talk to people in heaven, then why did I have to wait? In fact, the interactions Zechariah had with people in heaven were important to the Bible. They gave us a deeper understanding of salvation. And these interactions formed a framework for understanding God’s end time plans. Good thing Zechariah talked to them. Good thing he didn’t say, “Sorry, I can’t speak to you. I only talk to God and angels.” We would have missed some important doctrines!

Zechariah’s interactions with the cloud of witnesses was probably the easiest one for me to see in the Bible. Maybe that’s why God directed me there. But there are a lot of other interactions people had with saints in heaven in the Bible. I was beginning to realize that people in the Bible didn’t have a problem with interacting with people from heaven.

But part of me still had a problem with it. Actually, I didn’t know anyone else who was talking with people from heaven. I had never even heard of that kind of interaction as a possibility. I told my husband about my experiences, but I didn’t mention them to anyone else for about four years.

## Natural Progression

Interacting with people from heaven progressed for me like interacting with angels did. When I first started seeing angels, it was only during worship times and just every so often. Then it became more frequent—almost daily—in worship. Then I started sensing angels when I wasn't worshipping—anytime, anywhere. At first it was unusual for me to see an angel. Over time, I thought it was unusual to go a whole day without seeing an angel. Eventually, interacting with angels every day was something I expected to do.

It was the same with people from heaven. At first I'd see them only in worship, every so often. Then more and more frequently in worship times I would see or interact with someone from heaven. Then they started to pop in and out almost anytime, anywhere. At first it was rare to interact with someone from heaven. Over the years, it became more and more common. I became used to—even comfortable with—people from heaven suddenly standing next to me. Eventually, interacting with people from heaven became something I expected to do just about every day.

## From Weird to Normal

Although I was comfortable with interacting with people from heaven in my personal times with God, I wasn't comfortable sharing that fact with anyone else. I was afraid people would think it was weird or that I'd lost my mind. It just wasn't something anyone I knew ever talked about.

Then I was invited to a conference where the speaker—and a lot of other people—also encountered people in heaven all the time. They were interacting on an entirely different level than I was. But hearing that other people were also engaging people from heaven, gave me permission to walk in it more fully.

My interactions with people from heaven took off after that conference.

I realized that it's not just having interactions with people from heaven that changes our lives. It's knowing what to do with those interactions that propels us to new places. I want to help you not just encounter saints from heaven, but to digest these interactions in ways that can radically shift your spiritual walk.

*Chapter Two*

# Seven Categories of People in Heaven you can Meet

The first step in processing an encounter with a person from heaven is to realize who you met. Not just their name or position. But who are they in relation to your spiritual walk? In what capacity are they speaking into your life? What are you supposed to glean from your encounter?

It took me a few years to realize that the people I was talking to from heaven weren't random like I had thought initially. I noticed several categories of people who would interact with me. And I discovered what kinds of things I was doing that would prompt an interaction with them. Understanding the different relationships we can have with people from heaven—from friends to co-workers to tutors to many more—helped me draw more out of our conversations.

We really can interact with anyone from heaven. So to try to put the kinds of people we'll meet into categories is pointless on one level. You could meet anyone. On the other hand, there are different kinds of relationships we have with people in heaven. Knowing how the saint from heaven you just saw fits into your walk with God can unlock deeper truths from the encounter.

## **1. People who have a calling like yours**

At first I thought it was random that I had met people like John Huss, John Bunyan, or William Branham. Our encounters with people from

heaven are almost never haphazard, though. We saw them for a reason. Quite often it's because we have a calling like theirs. Like John Huss, I am supposed to be a forerunner. Like John Bunyan, I'm supposed to write books that endure beyond my lifetime. Like William Branham, I'm supposed to roam the heavenlies.

In fact, the second time I saw William Branham, he stood in my room with two or three other people I didn't recognize. He said, "Keep going. You're meant to stand among us." Then they left.

I didn't really know what he meant. But I figured he was known for hanging out with God in heaven. So God must want me to do that, too, I thought. At the time, I don't think I had visited heaven once. Later when I grew frustrated at trying to learn how to walk in heaven more fully, Branham's words would pop into my head. I could hear him telling me, "Keep going. You're meant for this." It was a real encouragement to me.

If you encounter someone from heaven, a great question to ask is, "Do I have a calling on my life like the calling they had on their lives?" If the answer is yes, quite often the person is there to encourage you, advise you, or spur you on to do the kinds of things they did. They really just want to see you grow into everything that God intends for you. If they can help you do that, they will. Think about it like having an older brother or sister. They've already gone through what you've gone through. They want to see you succeed. So they'll do whatever they can to help you fulfill your life's purpose.

## **2. People who have spiritual authority over an area you're engaging**

One day I was praying with my sister-in-law for a country in Asia. I have family in that country and we were praying for revival. It didn't seem like a particularly fervent prayer. We didn't spend hours praying and fasting. But we really were asking God to touch the nation.

Later that day I was sitting in our family room and dozed off on the

couch. Often in the place between being awake and asleep, it's easier to see in the spiritual realm. As I was just waking up, I noticed a man standing about five feet from me in the spiritual world. When I fully woke up, I could still see him. I knew he was someone from the cloud of witnesses. I could also sense that he had spiritual authority over Japan—maybe over all of Asia. Yet, he looked like a white man from Europe to me.

“What white man from Europe would have spiritual authority over Japan?” I wondered.

He walked over to me and handed me a book in the spirit. Immediately, I knew he wanted me to get my History of Christianity textbook. He was someone in that book. I easily found the book (a feat in itself), and looked up the spread of Christianity to Asia. Then I knew who he was.

“Francis Xavier!” I realized. Xavier had been the first—and still most successful—missionary to Japan. He had baptized thousands of people. Then he had evangelized in other parts of Asia. He had died trying to take the gospel to China.

There I was reading about Xavier as Xavier himself was peering over me. Suddenly, his love for Asia poured out into me. I started weeping. I felt such a compassion for Asia that I, too, wanted to give myself for that part of the world.

“I want you to have a piece of my mantle,” Xavier seemed to say to me. “God gave a commission to my generation to take the gospel to Asia. Some of us went and saw much done. But the work is not complete. Anytime God gives a commission, the call will remain open until it is completed. The call on my life is still open for others to finish. I want your generation to complete what we began.”

For two weeks afterwards, a love for Asia burned inside me. Later I realized that by praying for Asia, I was praying for a place that Xavier has authority over in the spiritual realm. He decided to appear to me to stir up a passion to take God's kingdom to Asia.

When we begin to show interest in or move spiritually into an area—a

geographic region or any type of thing someone can have authority over—we do draw the attention of the people in heaven that have authority over that area. They really want to see the work they started on earth completed. So they will do whatever they can to help us complete it.

### 3. Tutors

For the first several years I interacted with the cloud of witnesses, I had no idea there was such a thing as heavenly tutors. My introduction to tutors from heaven came in an unexpected way. One afternoon I was watching YouTube videos talking about heaven. Someone from the cloud of witnesses suddenly stood beside me. I had gotten used to people from heaven popping into my world. No big deal.

“I don’t want you to watch that video,” the guy standing next to me in the spiritual realm instructed.

“Who are you?” I asked him. I was thinking, “Why should I listen to you?”

“A tutor,” he replied.

I had never heard of tutors from the cloud of witnesses. But I decided to roll with it. “What should I watch then?” I asked him.

He directed me to a different video. “You need to learn this next,” he explained.

At the end of that video, the speaker talked about tutors from the cloud of witnesses working with people. A tutor from the cloud of witnesses told me to watch a video that mentioned tutors from the cloud of witnesses. I couldn’t help but smile.

As I understand it, tutors are regular people in heaven who volunteer to help people on earth mature spiritually. Some tutors focus on a particular skill. Others are general mentors. The few times I’ve interacted with a general tutor, their focus has been on bringing me to spiritual maturity in the fastest possible way. Instead of running at my normal pace of spiritual growth, they have spurred me on in a way that has



upped the pace of my training.

Once I requested a tutor when I was struggling with a spiritual subject. I had been talking to an angel about a subject that he managed for God. When I couldn't grasp everything he was trying to tell me, I asked the angel for a tutor.

"Sure," the angel agreed. "A lot of people in heaven have signed up to tutor people on earth about this subject. But not many people on earth have requested tutors."

Working with a tutor helped me take the lessons deeper. For a season, it seemed like every time I turned around, God was introducing me to a heavenly tutor for one thing or another. I couldn't remember all their names—much less the subjects they were supposed to be tutoring me in!

Eventually, we'll graduate from needing tutors. If you've passed high school, there's no need to return to high school tutors. At some point, I fired my tutors. Although I hadn't gained all the knowledge they were trying to impart, I had reached a personal snag. Every time I worked with a tutor, I felt inadequate—like I was missing something and they were trying to help me fill it. I realized for me personally, I couldn't reach maturity by looking outside of myself. I needed to develop my own ability to know all things and do all things. As long as I was looking externally, I couldn't progress spiritually. That's not everyone's story, though. Others will want to work with tutors far longer than I did.

Here are a couple tips I gleaned from my time with heavenly tutors. First, tutors often work with us outside of our conscious minds. Maybe they work with our souls or spirits. Maybe it's our subconscious. In any event, we can benefit from their help without being consciously aware of it.

At first when I'd meet a tutor or angel who was supposed to work with me, I'd feel like I needed to create time to talk with them, get to know them, and consciously learn from them. Eventually, I realized God was just cluing me in to what was going on when he introduced me to the tutor. I didn't have to engage them consciously—unless I wanted to.

Second, you can set aside time to have conversations or visions with a heavenly tutor. For example, the tutor I spent the most time with was a cloud of witness person named Ralph. He talked to me one on one. He took me into visions in interesting settings. There he taught me symbolically about the subject he was tutoring me on. At times, I'd be in an encounter with God, and God would invite Ralph to join us! When I fired my tutors, Ralph asked, "Can we just meet as friends?" We had developed a friendship of sorts from our frequent meetings.

### WHY NOT JESUS?

Why didn't Jesus appear to me? Why didn't Jesus tutor me? Why didn't Jesus pour his love for Asia into my heart? He did—through someone from the cloud of witnesses. In fact, a lot of times we'll sense a message from God. We'll feel his direction or encouragement or love. It really is from God. But sometimes it's delivered through a messenger.

When I first started hearing things in the spiritual realm, I thought only God (or demons) could talk to me. If the message was from God, I thought God had spoken it to me directly. Then I started perceiving angels. Often I noticed that an angel was telling me a message from God. In the past, I would have said, "God told me..." But then I realized God was speaking through an angel. It was still a message from God—just delivered through an angel. God used messengers to deliver more words that I had thought.

When I started seeing the cloud of witnesses, I realized that some of what I had thought was God speaking to me directly was probably spoken by a person from heaven. For example, what if I had been watching YouTube videos and heard God say, "Watch this video instead of the one you chose." I would have thought, "God spoke to me." That would have been correct—but maybe not the whole picture.

What if instead of hearing those words, I had seen a tutor from heaven giving me the advice? It was the same message from God. The

only difference is I was perceiving how it was communicated, not just what was communicated. God really does use people in heaven to convey messages. It's one of the ways God speaks to us.

I believe most Christians have received messages from God through angels and through people from heaven—without realizing it. Some of what we think are our own thoughts can actually be spoken to us from God—or an angel or a person from heaven. The first time I met a particular person in the cloud of witnesses, for example, I actually thought at first that his words were things my own brain was telling me. If the encounter had ended in the first few minutes, I would never have realized that someone from heaven was speaking those words into my head. I wonder how many times I have not understood I was encountering someone from heaven because I thought it was my own mind thinking the ideas. God is constantly communicating to us. We're just not always aware of it.

## 4. Friends

There are people in heaven that we will just be friends with. They don't have official input into our lives. They're not overseeing something we're stepping into. They don't necessarily have a similar life's calling. But we've met them and become friends with them.

One of the first rooms in heaven God took me to was the "Friends of God" room. It's just a space—a beautiful, amazing place—where God's friends can hang out. The way it looks to me is like a charming village with a fountain in the center, small tables lining the walkway, and quaint shops along the street. There are also park areas, meeting rooms, and a huge banquet-type hall.

"Come here as often as you want," God told me. "Meet people. Get to know them. Ask them questions."

In my first few months of visiting heaven, I went to that place a lot—because it was pretty much the only place I knew in heaven. I was longing for fellowship with people who had a passion for walking with

God in the heavenlies. But I didn't know anyone on earth who shared that desire yet. So the people I met there were my spiritual fellowship. I talked to a lot of people. Everyone was kind. They welcomed me into their conversations. They tried to help me at times. A couple of them I would now call friends. They were just people I met hanging out in heaven and we hit it off.

My heavenly friends have given me things, celebrated important events, and shared exciting news with me. Once a heavenly messenger invited me to step into heaven. When I did, I entered a surprise party my friends in heaven had organized for me! They had recognized the spiritual significance of something I had one on earth that day and wanted to celebrate it. They understood better than I did (and better than my friends on earth did) what had happened. So they organized an event to acknowledge it.

Friendships in heaven have made a real difference in my life. But I wouldn't say those relationships are a substitute for earthly ones—yet. I believe one day we'll have friends in heaven that we can share life with as intimately as we do with people living on earth.

## 5. Family

Can we interact with our earthly family members or ancestors who are now in heaven? Absolutely. We'll discuss four types of family interactions we can enjoy.

### OBSERVERS

I've noticed some of my ancestors who live in heaven at certain significant events in my life. The first time I saw them was probably at a church conference. At the end of one session, I ventured to the front for prayer. Before I knew what happened, I had fallen to the floor. Four angels were standing all around me. One after the other, the angels were declaring who I was and what sorts of things I would do with my life.

About thirty seconds into this encounter, I started thinking, “I bet this isn’t a normal church conference for me. I think I’m experiencing a significant moment in my life spiritually. I think I’m receiving a spiritual commissioning.”

Then I looked up and noticed a group from the cloud of witnesses standing about five feet behind one of the angels. I “recognized” one of them as my great-grandmother, although I had never met her on earth. A couple other people who were cousins or aunts from generations back were there. If you had told me their names, I wouldn’t have any idea who they were. But they were following their descendants and relatives on earth. They had all wanted to be there to witness the spiritually-significant event in my life.

I call extended family members like that group “observers.” They didn’t speak to me. They didn’t offer advice or verbal encouragement. Like having people sitting in the audience during a recital or sports game you’re part of, their presence let me know that I was important to them. They were following me, cheering for me, watching me, and in that way participating in my life.

## RESTORERS

We can interact with family in other capacities, too. Once I was sitting at home when a man from the cloud of witnesses appeared in the room. He told me he was a “grandfather,” but I knew it was from several generations back. Since I mostly know my father’s genealogy, I was thinking through his line trying to figure out who it was.

“I’m on your mother’s side,” he told me, a broad smile on his lips.

Immediately, I had a sense of what kind of person he was on earth. He liked to laugh. He was jolly. He loved to tell stories and enjoyed fishing as a boy. He would sit around the dinner table or gatherings, joking and storytelling. I felt like I knew him a little even though we had never met before. He was laughing with me, trying to connect me to the family.

“We want you to come hang out with us—the family that are here now,” he declared, “You are welcome to come to know us and spend time with us.”

I could almost see a huge family reunion party where they all hung out. I thought I'd have to wait to die and go to heaven before I could meet my relatives who had died before I was born. I had thought it was normal to know only three or four generations in your family line personally. As my “grandfather” pointed to a large family gathering in heaven, I realized that death wasn't meant to separate me from the generations that had gone before me. I was supposed to be able to know—personally and intimately—everyone who was born before me. I was supposed to be able to meet them as young, vibrant individuals. I was supposed to form deep connections to them. Death has robbed me of bonds with my past. God was now overcoming death to restore those relationships.

I call people like that grandfather “restorers.” They help connect us to our past generations so we can experience the fullness of familial relationships. Just like I'm designed to function best when I have an abundance of friends, I'm also meant to experience the fullness of knowing and enjoying relationships with my past generations. God is restoring spiritual inheritances and blessings from our family lines. He's also giving us the personal relationships themselves that were lost through death. Those relationships may be the bigger treasure.

#### FAMILIAL INTERACTIONS

Sometimes we can see or interact with people from our family line just like we might have a conversation with them on earth. I've seen deceased relatives and even spoken to them a number of times. Once I had a dream where I saw my mother's brother in heaven about twenty-five years after he had committed suicide. I noticed he had a respectable role in heaven and was doing well. When I mentioned it to my mother, she told me she had been thinking about him recently. Perhaps my

dream was an answer to her questions about her brother.

Another time, I had an encounter with my father's brother within a few hours of his death. (He had died of complications from aging.) In his life on earth he had been a religious skeptic—and an elder in his church. I summarized our encounter to share with certain family members. I'll reprint it here because I think it's fascinating.

I had a dream the night our uncle died. In the dream, he looked like a child about 4 to 6 years old. . . . Radiating out from him, and reflected in his voice, was joy and peace and knowledge and deep confidence (without cockiness). I wondered if I was seeing a perfected version of who he was meant to be. . . . When I stooped down next to him, I realized there was a golden light shining out from his entire being. A glory was coming from him. . . . Then he reached over with his right arm and side-hugged me. As he did, a pure love began flowing from him into me. He squeezed my shoulder again, declaring, "Um-umm, it's really good to see you."

Pure love mixed with joy continued to pour out into me as he side-hugged me. At the same time, several thoughts rushed into my head simultaneously: "I've never felt such pure love by anyone on earth," I thought, and, "The essence of this boy looks like my uncle but I never felt such pure love and peace and joy from him before," and, "This feels so good I could stay in a hug like this forever."

At that moment I woke up and realized it was a dream. I started crying. A few minutes later I decided to try to hang out in heaven with God. Holy Spirit came to meet me and asked, "Would you like to see your uncle?" Of course I did.

Holy Spirit took me to the place where my uncle was standing. I had about a 30 minute conversation with him as an adult in

heaven. He started by saying how excited he was to be there and how he was making plans for things he wanted to do and build. Then he told me he had a lot of wrongs to right. And he was looking forward to seeing people on earth again when they moved to heaven.

Then I asked him, “What was it like to experience death?”

He told me this story (as best as I could understand): “There was this instant when I realized that everything I had believed or based my life on [spiritually] as an adult was worthless. It would be no good with God. Then I was shown how I had made a decision as a child to accept Jesus. I was given a decision in a split second: What did I want my life to be judged on—the things I believed as an adult? Or the decision I had made to accept Jesus as a child? In a quick instant, I made a choice to be judged on the decision I had made as a child.

“Instantly, Jesus embraced me. He hugged me with this deep, penetrating love. His love started to shake off or remove every negative thing in me. Fear, bitterness, regret all started to fall off. In all the decisions I had made that I now regretted, the regret was gone. Jesus kept hugging me until all the negative things had been removed from my life. Then he stepped back from the embrace.

“And I saw his face for the first time. It was white and shining with glory. Then he spoke to me for the first time. The first words I heard him say were, ‘I love you.’ Those words came out of his mouth with such power that they penetrated something inside me and broke it open.

“It was then that I realized I loved him back. And my love for him, which sprang up from his love for me, was the first virtue I grew in heaven. As my love expanded, other virtues quickly



started growing up from love—peace, joy, and many others. And that is how my existence in heaven began.”

We chatted about other things, too. He told me he had already had more conversations with Jesus than he had had in his entire life on earth. He had already had meaningful interactions with his father and other members of the family. He had already been to a party in heaven.

He thanked me for praying for him. The prayers for him had made a huge difference. “I did pray for you,” I told him. “But my mother prayed for you a lot more.”

“Then thank her for me,” he replied.

He told me he saw my immediate family differently now that he was in heaven. (When he was alive on earth, he ridiculed my immediate family for our religious fervor.) “There are some good things I didn’t see on earth,” he admitted. “But there are also some things I see now in heaven that you need to get rid of.”

When I asked him what they were he replied, “Religiosity. That kills true understanding of God. It’s dangerous and you must get rid of it.” He emphasized that point a lot, urging me to warn other family members of its danger. I saw how it was a negative thing passed down in our family line. There were many positive things passed down, but that is something we are meant to discard now.

At one point I asked him what surprised him the most about heaven. He mentioned two things.

“There are angels who serve you everywhere,” he answered. “I was surprised at how important every person is in heaven and that we have servants. I was surprised to be so honored and served. My whole life on earth I had wanted to become an important person who’d be recognized for being important. I

didn't realize that what I wanted is actually what I already was here. I was looking for something God had already given me.

"The other thing that surprised me the most is the food," he continued. "You can eat as much of it as you like. Or you can eat nothing at all. The food isn't what gives energy to your body. We draw our life from God—not from food. That is just surprising me."

We spoke of other things personal to me. It was a special treat to be able to interact with him. A wonderful blessing.

What fascinated me about our interaction is we were chatting just like you would with a family member on earth. He shared his experiences from his few hours in heaven. He gave me advice based on what he could see from heaven's perspective that I was blinded to on earth. Pure love and joy and other virtues that he hadn't lived from perfectly on earth were at the core of his being now. Sure, he still had a lot to explore and learn in heaven. But we could talk together in some ways more openly than we could on earth. His words about the danger of religiosity stuck with me especially. They were one factor in starting a major shift in my life.

## INNER HEALING

When we encounter a relative in heaven in a more glorified state, it's usually an uplifting experience. Not all encounters with ancestors leave us with the warm fuzzies, though. Because we share DNA with our ancestors, we have a special connection to them. Ancestors can pass on far more than our eye color or nose shape. We can inherit their emotional energy and spiritual giftings. God designed it so each generation stands on the shoulders of the one before it, having full access to what each prior generation unlocked spiritually. That's the way humanity as a species matures. We take what our ancestors understood, and add our own journeys with God to it.

Whether you're aware of it or not, you've probably felt emotions that

your ancestors lived from. And you've probably heard words echoing through your head subconsciously that governed their lives. Things like unworthiness or fear often originated many generations back in a family line. Thoughts like, "You're no good" or "It will just end in failure" could be lies ancestors experienced, weren't able to resolve, and passed along to you—in an effort for someone, sometime to fix it.

In my experience, most ancestors we encounter through our DNA (and not through a glorified heavenly vision) are concerned first about resolving the emotional trauma from their own lives. Like us, they don't seem to be able to focus on anything else until their basic emotional needs are met. Various methods exist to help us work through the issues our ancestors passed on to us.

Often I've had conversations with ancestors in this context. At times they've apologized for making a decision that's still impacting me. Other times they've yelled destructive words at me. Or they've moaned about some loss they suffered that they weren't able to work through. In these encounters, they have a human figure in the vision and it appears like we're talking face-to-face. In reality, I suspect I'm connecting with a part of them (their soul or emotional energy perhaps)—probably a part connected to me through DNA. The purpose of those encounters is to bring emotional healing to me—and to them.

Once those issues are plowed through enough, I've found ancestors are eager to hand off whatever they can to help us—from encouragement to mantles to unfilled callings that they give us the right to accomplish.

In sum, we can have a variety of interactions with family in heaven. Some of them will simply cheer us on, following us and supporting us silently. Others will actively engage us. They'll work to restore relationships with our family line. Still others we can talk to like we may speak to someone on earth. Finally, we can connect with our ancestors through our DNA to bring wholeness and emotional healing to our family line.

## 6. Heavenly Councils

People in heaven do watch events on earth. But they don't watch them like it's a movie they can observe but not participate in. The cloud of witnesses is given real responsibility over things in heaven—and earth. This truth became clear to me a decade or so ago when a well known Christian leader died of cancer. How could God allow his death at the peak of this guy's ministry?, people wondered. God told someone close to the man, "I need him more in heaven now than I do on earth."

Heaven isn't eternal retirement. It's just the next stage in our process of spiritual maturity. By governing over areas in heaven and earth, people in heaven step more and more deeply into who they are. By working with them, you can help them mature—as much as they can help you do the same.

### ANCIENT ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT

Before I thought about heaven's government structure, I'd have encounters with people who told me they were on this or that council in heaven. Or I'd see a group of three people or ten people gathered around me. Or I'd step into a group of thousands of people assembled for an official purpose. I had no idea what any of it meant. Because I couldn't place what these groups were in the big picture, it was hard for me to know exactly what to do with the encounters.

So I want to outline the overall structure of heaven's government. That way, when you have an encounter with one of heaven's councils, it can make more sense to you than my initial interactions did.

The Bible and the ancient Jewish texts interpreting it provide a fascinating outline of heaven's government. These texts and traditions have always been there. But not many of us have understood them. Talking about heaven's government structure, Jeremiah prophesied, "In the days to come, you will understand it clearly" (Jer. 23:20 NIV). The verb

for “understand” can mean “look at or consider closely.” God promises that we will understand his government structure in the last days. We won’t just read about it or think about it intellectually, though. We will look at it—see it for ourselves—clearly. It will become commonplace to see and interact with heaven’s government close-up and personally.

The Talmud suggests that the government structure Moses established on earth (as directed by God) was a mirror of heaven’s own government (e.g., Mishnah, tractate Sanhedrin; tractate Makkot 23b; tractate Sotah 22b). Since the earthly Tabernacle Moses established was a replica of a heavenly reality (Heb. 8:5), it makes sense that the earthly government Moses established was also a reflection of a heavenly one. If we know what Moses organized, then we have a picture of heaven’s government, too!

#### THE SANHEDRIN SYSTEM

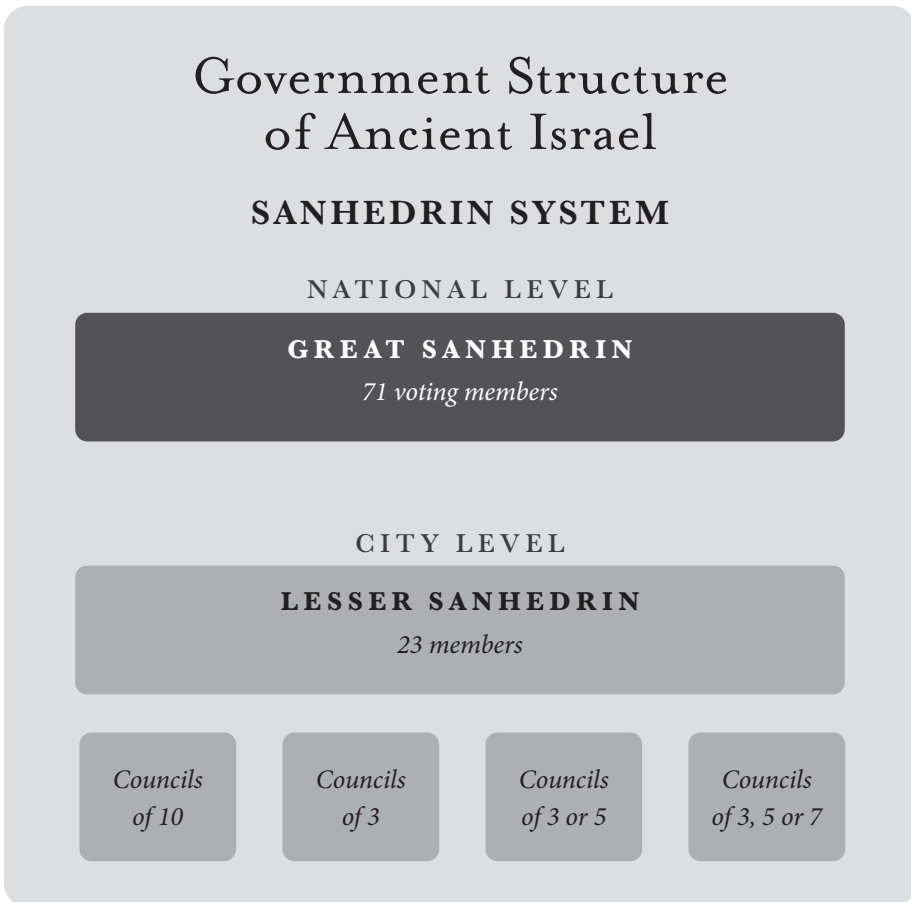
What system did Moses establish? Overall, the system developed into three main layers (see Chart 2-1):

1. The Great Sanhedrin (one for the nation)
  - 71 members who decide major issues for the nation
2. The Lesser Sanhedrin (one for each city and one for each tribe)
  - Councils of 23 members who decide issues for their city or tribe
3. Local Councils (not a set number)
  - **Councils of 10** who decide certain issues in their city
  - Various **councils of 3** who decide civil law issues in their city
  - **Councils of 3 or 5** who decide certain religious law issues in their city
  - **Councils of 3, 5, or 7** decide certain religious law issues in their city

Who served on these councils? In ancient times, their members were called zekenim or elders. The head of each family line would serve as that family’s zeken or elder. When the elders of the entire town assembled, then the affairs of the city could be decided. Some scholars believe the elders of the town were given greater authority under Moses’ system than

they previously had. In other words, the Old Testament law may have taken some power from the head of each family and given that power to the town elders as a collective—sort of like the national government taking power from the states. In any event, the elders of the town likely developed into Lesser Sanhedrin—groups of elders who had authority over town affairs.

Some people trace the origins of the Great Sanhedrin all the way back to the “elders of Moses”—the group of seventy (plus Moses) who were anointed with Holy Spirit to help Moses govern (Num. 11). By



*Chart 2-1. Government Structure of Ancient Israel*

*Source: Mishnah, Tractate Sanhedrin*

Jesus' time, this group met in Jerusalem and decided certain affairs that impacted the entire nation.

The local councils were more fluid. There didn't have to be a set number of them. They could be created as needed—as disbanded when no longer necessary. In Jesus' time, every person in the synagogue (or at least every male) was supposed to be able to step onto a council of three or five at any moment. When Paul suggested that the church appoint judges to decide lawsuits between church members, he was probably referring to the synagogue custom of appointing a council (or court) of synagogue members to decide a dispute (1 Cor. 6:1-8).

#### OTHER COUNCILS

In addition to the councils in the Sanhedrin system, the Bible uses three other terms for councils that are worth mentioning. First, an edah was a “congregation, assembly or company.” Second, a qahal was a “convocation or assembly.” Some scholars believe it was the Hebrew parallel of the later Greek word ekklesia. Finally, the sod (pronounced sode) was an “inner council” or a “circle of confidants.”

Unlike the Sanhedrin system, there was no set number of people who could sit on these councils. Often an edah or qahal was extremely large. For example, it could include the entire assembly at a holy festival or everyone gathered for worship in the temple. Some assemblies would occur regularly. Others gathered just for special occasions.

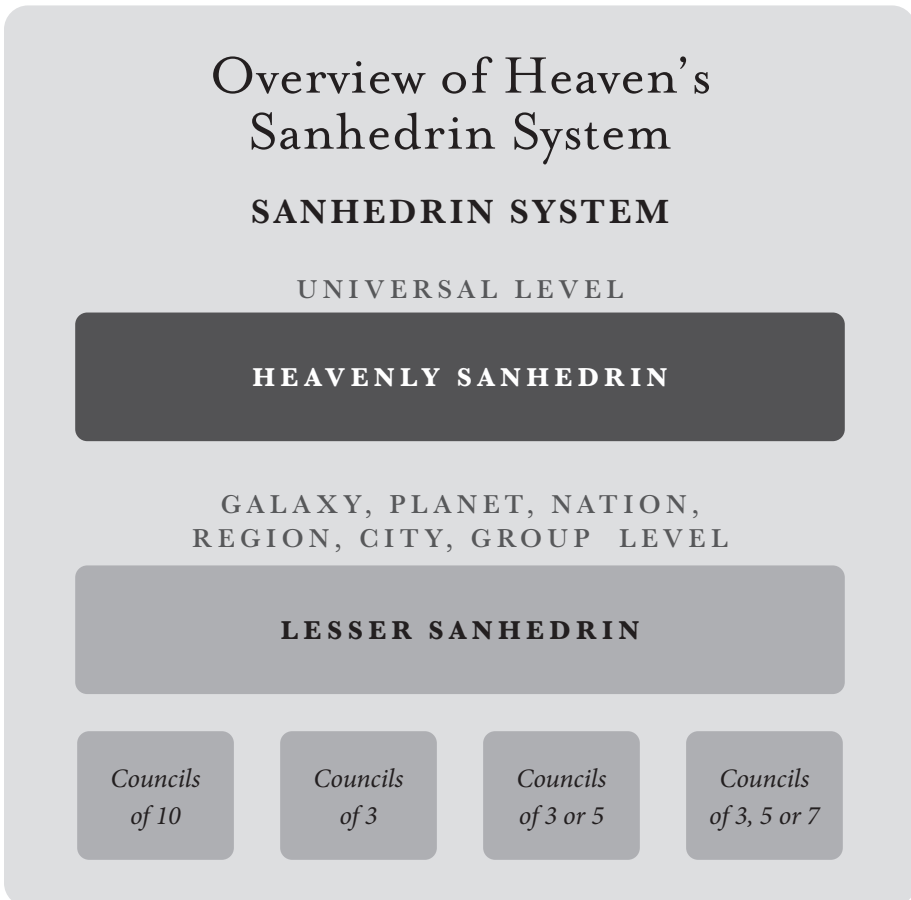
The “inner councils” were smaller, permanent groups who advised the king or an assembly for official business. Kings often had another inner circle of close friends who advised them in personal matters. Both of those groups were considered councils.

In sum, the government system Moses created developed into a structure that had a council at the national level, councils at the city level, and numerous councils at the local or sub-city level. Various assemblies, congregations, and inner councils existed outside of the Sanhedrin

system, too. Some were permanent groups. Others were gathered only on occasion (see Chart 2-2).

## HEAVEN'S GOVERNMENT

How would this structure translate into heaven's government system? First, rabbinic texts refer to a heavenly counterpart to the Great Sanhedrin. (See, e.g., Mishnah, tractate Sanhedrin; tractate Makkot 23b; tractate Sotah 22b.) People have called this ruling body by various names. I'll call it the Heavenly Sanhedrin in this book. This council has jurisdiction over the entire universe.



*Chart 2-1. Overview of Heaven's Sanhedrin System*



Next, there were Lesser Sanhedrins who guided affairs at the city level—the level below national business. What’s the heavenly counterpart? Any area that’s below the universal level may have a council like the Lesser Sanhedrin set up to manage it. Although I haven’t interacted with every possible one of these councils, I imagine numerous councils exist—one for each galaxy, each planet, each nation, each region, each city, each group. You name it, there’s probably a Lesser Sanhedrin that exists (or could be established) to govern that jurisdiction. Finally, there are almost infinite numbers of councils of 10, 7, 5, or 3 that govern specific areas within the Lesser Sanhedrins’ jurisdictions.

Some of the Lesser Sanhedrin and local councils are obvious—like ones that govern a city or nation in the spiritual realm. Others are almost bizarre in what they govern. I’ve encountered heaven dividing authority in ways I would never have thought to do it. (For example, I’ve met councils governing “books meant to sell above/below a certain number of copies.”) I’ve also seen local councils set up for issues so small I was shocked there was a body in heaven monitoring it (see Chart 2-3).

For example, I encountered a heavenly council once whose job was to decide on the rewards to give people on earth during their earthly lifetime. There were three people on the particular council I saw. (I imagine more than one of these local councils exist.) The conversation I overheard was about what they should do in someone’s life who was going through a difficult time but had decided to reach out to God.

“Let’s do something amazing for him since it took a lot of faith to reach out to God instead of turning to despair,” one council member announced.

“Sure, but we can’t do anything that would ease up on the difficult time he’s going through,” another member responded. “Remember all the things this crisis is supposed to open up for him. If we cut his hardship short, we’d rob him of those things.”

“OK,” the third member summarized. “We’ve got to think of something that would give him a boost, but not solve the problems.”

After deliberating a while, they concluded on arranging something so trivial in this guy's life that I think I would have died from boredom if I had been assigned to this council.

"How can you stand the work you're doing?" I asked one of the council members.

"Oh, I thoroughly enjoy it," he assured me with a smile. "On earth I was self-consumed. I rarely took the time to think about anyone's well-being but my own. I love that I get to spend time thinking about creative

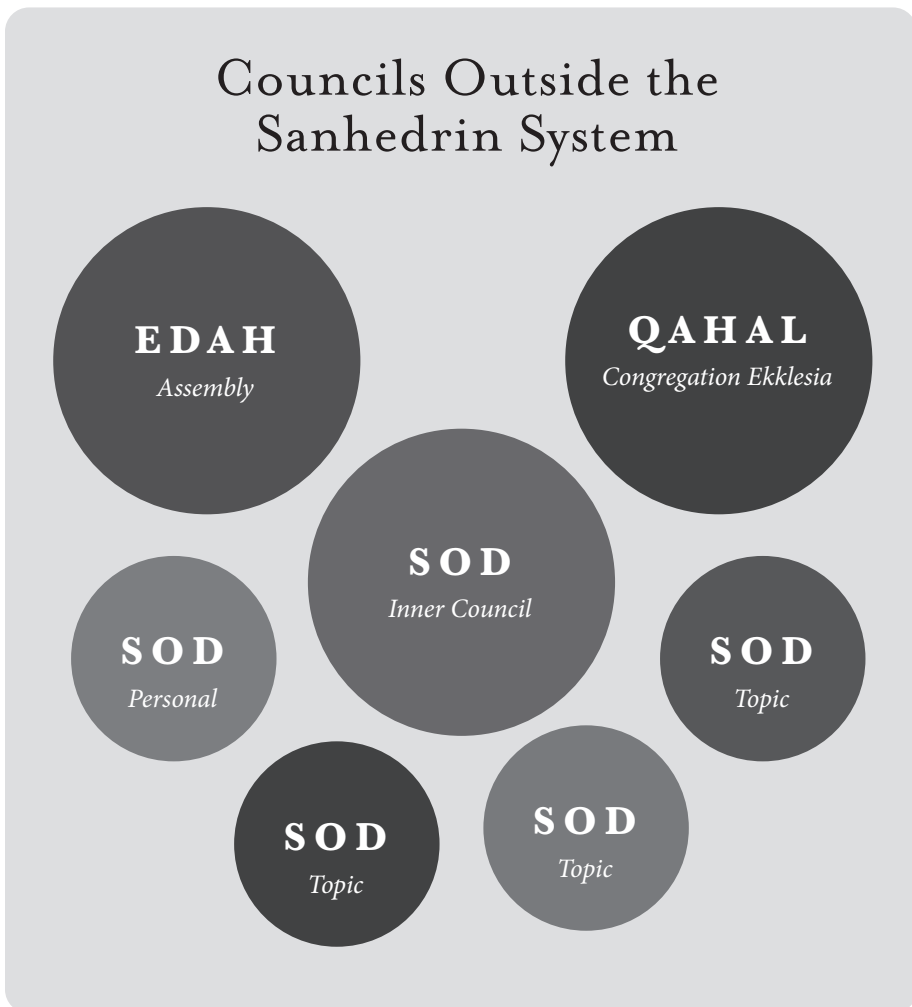


Chart 2-3. Councils outside the Sanhedrin System

ways to bring even a little joy into someone else's life now.”

Serving on that council was healing or completing part of the council member's being that he neglected to develop on earth. God is a genius to set things up this way, isn't he? If we didn't have an experience on earth that we should have had, he'll give us the chance to live it out in heaven—in a way that's for everyone's best!

#### EXAMPLE OF A LESSER SANHEDRIN

I was in the process of revising this section of heavenly councils when an angel stood in front of me with a summons. “You're wanted in heaven right now by a council.”

With a shrug, I agreed to go. “Which heavenly court has summoned me?” I asked when we arrived.

The head of the council spoke up. “We can't believe you're writing a book about heaven's councils and you didn't include this council. You've got to include us. Please?”

“What council are you?” I asked again.

“We oversee the answer to prayer requests,” the head replied. “Not all prayer requests,” he quickly added, “just certain ones. We think people would appreciate knowing how seriously we take our job. We want to assure them that no request is lost and we carefully consider the best thing to be done in each circumstance.”

“What about people who are sorely disappointed in the answers to their prayers?” I challenged.

“We have angels who work with us who are sent to comfort them,” he answered.

“Why do you deny some requests?” I pressed.

“You'd make the same decisions we do if you had our information. Even the people making the requests would agree with us if they knew what we do. Tell them they're welcome to come ask us about our decisions or sit next to us to see our decision process,” he replied.

“Aren’t you a lower council?” I asked, puzzled. “I mean, in the end, don’t we stop asking God to do something for us and start doing it ourselves? Then your council wouldn’t be needed.”

“Correct,” he answered. “We operate for people not ready to make their own prayer requests happen. We care deeply for these people.”

“Who are you anyway?” I asked, suddenly curious about who would volunteer to sit on this council.

As I peered at him more closely, I noticed how rich and gorgeous his clothes were. He and the other council members seemed quite happy.

“We are happy to be where we are,” he replied to my thoughts. “We’re very content with our role.”

After our encounter I thought of a question that hadn’t occurred to me at the time: Did God delegate answering prayer requests to a council?

“Oh no, God hasn’t removed himself from the business of answering prayers,” the council head assured me, jumping into my thoughts as soon as I articulated the question. “We give our recommendations to him for approval. Sometimes he asks questions about it or shows us a different perspective.”

“He’s training you on how to read his heart, isn’t he?” I smiled. “Now I see why you like your job.”

#### HEAVENLY COUNTERPARTS OUTSIDE THE SANHEDRIN SYSTEM

Is there a heavenly equivalent of the other words the Bible uses for council? Absolutely. For example, the Bible refers to the “inner circle” or sod of Yahweh. That group decides what will happen on the earth (Jeremiah 23:18). It has many members. God invites visitors to listen in on some of its proceedings (Jer. 23:18).

God also has smaller “inner circles” to advise him on a personal level. Job declares that he was included in this inner circle. Some translations call it God’s “intimate friendship” (NET) or “the secret of

God” (KJV) (Job 29:4). David had close friends or sod in his personal life. With this group he “shared personal thoughts” (NET) and enjoyed “sweet fellowship together” (NASB) (Ps. 55:14). Like Israel’s ancient kings, God has an official assembly of his “inner circle” to advise him on business matters and a personal “inner circle” that he shares intimate thoughts and experiences with.

The Bible also refers toedah assemblies in Psalm 1:5 (“assembly of the godly”) (NET) and Psalm 82:1 (“assembly of the gods”), for example. Qahal congregations are referenced in Psalm 89:5 (“assembly of the holy ones”), Psalm 107:32 (“assembly of the people”); Psalm 149:1 (“assembly of the faithful”), Psalm 22:25 (the “great assembly”) and Hebrews 12:22-25 (the “assembly and congregation of the firstborn”).

Like their earthly counterparts, some of these heavenly councils are probably long-standing groups. Others are probably assembled for a particular purpose—or convene only on occasion. God’s sod or inner circle is a permanent group. There’s a large sod that Jeremiah mentioned in chapter 23 of his prophecies. There are also smaller groups that advise God on specific issues and on personal matters.

When I first started having visions more than twenty years ago, some of my first encounters were of the large heavenly sod and perhaps some of the other great assemblies. These heavenly bodies do exist. The first question I had was: Can we interact with heaven’s councils? And how?

## **Working with Heaven’s Councils**

Working with councils can be very important. With their help we can do far more than we could on our own. I want to discuss how to do it. But I want to begin with two caveats. First, no administrative structure (even a heavenly one) is better than a relationship. I could learn all the protocols of an organization and navigate my way to the top. Or I could be married to its CEO and accomplish what I want by a simple conversation in our bedroom—without knowing anything about how he structured his company.

Heaven works the same way. Some people are drawn to learning the structures of heaven. They function best using those systems. Others aren't interested much in the structures. (I fall into the second category, believe it or not.) It's not necessary to work with a heavenly council to be more effective in our job on earth. Sometimes I wonder if councils were set up as an interim measure until we reached maturity.

For example, the worship system Moses established had a heavenly counterpart (Heb. 8:5). But the system grew obsolete (Heb. 8:13). The heavenly temple still exists. You can worship God there. But many other ways exist to connect with God. We're not limited to that system. It may not even be the best or fullest way to encounter God.

In a similar way, Moses' council system mirrored heaven's governmental structure. Will the councils of heaven become obsolete like the sacrificial systems of the Bible? Probably. Many of us will work with them now. They'll also exist as a way of doing business in heaven. So I think it's worth learning how to navigate them if that interests you. Yet there's a good chance the entire system will be replaced with a single word: intimacy.

Once humanity is living in oneness with God, will we need councils to conduct affairs? Or will we flow so perfectly with each other and with God that business will be as simple as a shared thought? Formal groups of people with protocols and procedures are valuable. They help us understand and practice who we are. But they're not the ultimate goal. In the end, intimacy with God and each other will rule heaven much more efficiently than the best council system.

Currently, I can see heaven functioning both ways. I can see the beauty of its council system. I can feel the joys of collaborating with people through mutual respect and honor. I can also see a "system" based solely on intimacy. Protocols and procedures seem too formal. Oneness is valued more than accomplishments. We're probably in a transition phase where one system of governing heaven is slowly being replaced by another. It's worth learning the old system—keeping in mind there's a better way on the horizon.

Second, we're not bound to follow the advice of heavenly councils. I respect heaven's administrative structures. If I meet with someone from one of them, I take what they advise very seriously. At the same time, I realize I'm not bound by the decisions made in heaven any more than I'm bound by the decisions made on earth. I sit outside of time, space, and creation. Since heaven is part of creation, I sit above heaven—not within it. What God and I decide together is higher than any heavenly court. At the same time, I've learned a lot from heaven's councils and their members. What they've advised has been life changing.

With those two thoughts in mind, how can we work with heaven's councils to be more effective in our jobs on earth?

#### OPEN FOR BUSINESS—DOWNLOADS, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR OUR WORK

From time to time, I've been going about my life when a council from heaven interrupts. Eventually, I began to suspect that there were groups of people in heaven who had authority over areas I wanted to impact on earth. They were showing me how to work with them to be more effective in what I wanted to do.

Why can working with a heavenly council be more powerful than working on our own? It's for the same reasons working with the earthly governmental system makes our work more effective. For example, when I wanted to start a business in my state, I had to check the state rules about how to incorporate. Then I had to register with the state and be given its permission to start the business. Because I wanted the business to be not-for-profit, I also needed to research the national rules about how to set up the business so it would qualify for nonprofit status. Then I had to apply to the federal government and receive their permission to operate as a nonprofit company.

I could have just started a business without officially registering it and without receiving approval to operate. But when I worked with the

structures the government had established, I automatically received legal protection for my business. And I was able to enjoy the benefits and responsibilities of operating as a nonprofit. Working within the earthly structures of how to set up a business opened up more benefits and opportunities.

Heaven works in a similar way. If I want to start doing something for God on earth, I can just start doing it. But sometimes a committee from heaven may voice their opinion about what I should do. I've always taken their advice seriously. It's like they have authority from the spiritual realm over my nonprofit in the same way the state and federal government have authority in the natural realm over it. If I work with heaven's government, I can have more benefits and opportunities open for me.

For example, one Sunday I closed my eyes in church to look around in the spiritual realm. Suddenly, a group of 10 to 15 people appeared in front of me. I noticed men and women. Each was unique. In quick succession, they started telling me things they wanted to work on with me. One of them handed me a list of topics to teach during my weekly Bible study. After we chatted a few minutes, Jesus walked in and sat at the head of the group. Eventually, I asked him, "Which council is this?"

"It's the council for distributing the knowledge of heaven to earth," he replied.

The group offered to meet with me whenever I wanted. I could ask them questions. They could give me insight. Instead of teaching on whatever topic popped into my mind, I could receive guidance to release what was on heaven's agenda.

From what I remember of our conversation, they explained that their council oversees the overall distribution of heaven's knowledge to earth. Instead of talking to each person on the earth individually, the council set up a system to streamline their work. They designate certain groups or people as distribution points. The council works directly with those distribution centers, slipping them lists of topics heaven wants explored on earth. Then



each of those centers reaches the people in their sphere of influence. With enough distribution centers, the entire earth can hear heaven's messages—explained in language that best speaks to each group. Apparently, they had identified my group as a potential distribution center and wondered if we were interested.

When I thought about it, I realized I did want to be a place where heaven's knowledge was released on earth. In my own way, I was trying to do that. Receiving the council's input would make what I was trying to do both easier and more effective.

Did I really need to see the council? Did I need to have conversations with its members? Why couldn't I just chat with Jesus about his ideas? One of the functions of heaven is to continue our maturation process. People there are given real responsibility to grow them up. God doesn't micromanage every decision in heaven. So seeing councils interacting with them—is just how it works.

Do I have to take their advice? Of course not. At times I haven't followed heavenly guidance. (That's been part of my maturing process—realizing I'm just as divine as the people in heaven). But overall, the advice of heaven's councils can be powerful.

I call this type of collaboration being “open for business” with heaven's councils. I agreed to receive downloads, guidance, and advice from that council in the area of responsibility they were given.

I believe a lot of people have entered into similar agreements with councils without realizing it. Maybe they thought God was giving them downloads directly. Or perhaps they weren't even aware that anything supernatural was involved. But they've been regularly receiving input and guidance from a council in heaven. Since heaven operates through councils, it's very likely many of us have been in working relationships with councils. Now our eyes are starting to open to the fact that it's a council (and not only Jesus) we're interacting with.

## TIPS FOR WORKING WITH COUNCILS

From my interactions with this type of council I learned a couple things. First, I didn't have to engage a council consciously to receive their input. They could drop information in a download or a dream or any other way. The initial meeting with this council was probably so I'd be aware of their work and could make a decision about whether I wanted their input. After we say, "Yes!" to working with a council, they can slip us information on the sly.

Second, working with councils can be a long-term arrangement. The council wasn't interested in giving me one download and be done with working with me. Instead, they wanted to establish a relationship. Over the next year, I had a series of encounters with God and many others in heaven. Slowly, these interactions brought me up to speed on some of the latest things heaven was releasing.

After I met with the knowledge of heaven council, I didn't notice a huge shift in what I was doing right away. A couple years later, however, the topics I was teaching were completely different. Instead of walking through the Bible in chronological order, I was to prepping people for the age to come. Having one meeting with a council didn't mean I immediately stepped into being a full-blown distribution center of heaven's knowledge on earth. But it helped point me in the direction to do so.

Meeting with a council is rarely one and done. Councils and people on them frequently offer to meet with me whenever I wish. So if you interact with a council, go back and meet with them again if you want to.

Third, working with a council is often not just about us. Sometimes their offers are meant for the group we're part of. Or they may be speaking to us as a representative of a group. It wasn't just me who started understanding more of heaven's knowledge. The group I was part of made radical shifts in the same direction. Most likely, the offer to work with that council was for all of us.

Even if a council wants to work with us individually, our assignments are never meant for us alone. What we learn will impact those around us. In the end, heaven is able to change many lives by touching just one life on earth.

Finally, there's usually a dual reason for my seeing a council. Of course, whatever guidance they offer is usually spot-on. I've had ten-second encounters that have literally changed my life. But it's not just their words that change me. I've gleaned just as much by observing who they are and how their committee works. If you see a council in heaven, pay close attention to the people on it. How do they interact with God? What's their character like? What is their spiritual body like? How do they communicate? You can pick up information about heaven just by observing them.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

For example, one day when I was hanging out with God near where the Heavenly Sanhedrin meets, one of those council members wandered by. God introduced us.

As we were chatting, a song I loved came on in the background on earth. Without meaning to, I started worshipping God as the song played. Suddenly, the council member transformed. Instead of appearing in human form, he started to radiate light and his whole body became jeweled. An amazing energy-like substance was coming out of him and all around him.

Instantly, I realized his true appearance was more like a brilliant light being who communicated through light and sound. When the song ended, he started to morph back into a human form.

"No, wait!" I cried. "Can you do that again? Can I join you?" I had started to melt into what was radiating out of him. It was so beautiful and amazing I wanted to interact with him like that.

"No, you couldn't handle it now," he answered.

The guy also showed me what he was working on, but I was more fascinated with how he looked than what the project he was pursuing. The Bible says we are being transformed into God's likeness with ever increasing glory (2 Cor. 3:18). That transformation process continues in heaven.

Sometimes seeing a person from the cloud of witnesses who is displaying a more glorified state can help us tap into what they have. The first time I met with a council member I was paired with for an assignment, for example, I was deeply touched by watching how he interacted with God. It was gorgeous to watch his guy's spirit weaving together with God's spirit. I told him so.

"You and God are truly stunning together," I told him, my jaw almost dropping. "You guys flow together in a flawless, seamless union—knowing each other's thoughts, anticipating each other's actions, sharing your deepest thoughts together instantaneously. As soon as one of you has a thought, it's seamlessly shared with the other. I can tell you enjoy the way you share your thoughts with each other as much as you enjoy knowing the thing the other thought or experienced. It's truly beautiful."

I'm sure I saw the way he was interacting with God because it touched on my assignment. But I learned just as much from feeling his interaction with God as I did from the answers he gave me to my questions.

Instead of just asking questions or listening to advice when I see someone from heaven, I try to notice the person themselves. What is their personality like? How does their spiritual body look? How are they communicating with me? What else can I observe that makes me stare in awe? I love glimpsing a more glorified version of humanity. It's where we're all heading.

## **Taking a Seat on a Council**

We won't just work with councils in heaven. We'll also take a seat on them, too! Most people will log at least some time on heaven's councils as part of their maturation process. You don't have to die to take your

place on a heavenly council. They are very much open to you right now.

#### WHY WE'RE NOT ON COUNCILS

If you're not on a heavenly council currently, it could be for one of two reasons. Either you see yourself as not ready for heavenly responsibility. Or you're interested in something other than ruling in heaven. I've experienced both.

When I first started hanging out in heaven, I thought of myself like a little child who knew nothing. Sometimes I would even appear like a six or seven year old kid in my heavenly encounters. I didn't feel ready to make any decision, much less determine the fate of galaxies.

"Enjoy your childhood," God told me at that time. "You can go anywhere in heaven. You can stand in councils and see what they're doing. You have angels who are tutoring you to maturity. You have no responsibility now. Enjoy yourself!"

Sooner than I expected, God interrupted my explorations of heaven. "I'm putting you on a council to give you real responsibility," God informed me.

At first I had a lot of encounters with people on the council. Over time, though, I lost interest in ruling over heaven. I became consumed with God himself. I had no desire to learn heaven's protocols. I didn't care about which council did what or who you were supposed to ask to get such-and-such done. I was lost in God himself.

Eventually, God explained that ruling over heaven is something that tends to interest his children more—what people call the "sons of God." He totally enjoyed opening up sonship to people. He treasured every moment people explored heaven and mapped its government. But my heart was burning with desire to know God intimately—in a new, unknown way.

God assured me that it was OK to skip the ruling-the-cosmos part of growing up if I wanted to. Like earth, heaven exists to give us a space

where we can mature. Taking a seat on a council can be a meaningful part of learning who we are. It can push us to maturity. If you're drawn to it, go for it. But ruling heaven isn't a must. If you don't need the tool of governing the universe to become who you truly are, skip it.

I think it's worth looking into sitting on heaven's councils because most of us will do that for at least a season. Being on a council opens the door for a different kind of interaction with the cloud of witnesses. Instead of their giving input into our lives, we interact as peers working together for a common goal.

#### HOW DO YOU GET ON A COUNCIL?

Inside each of us is God's nature—perfect, holy, unlimited, all-powerful. That fact means that all of us are fully qualified to sit on any council in heaven right now. How do you win a set on a council? You just decide you want to step into the place appointed for you.

Although we are fully mature on the inside, most of us don't feel mature. We may want to take some time to grow up and learn things before taking a seat on a council. That's fine. Others of us may want to skip councils altogether. We may not want to use that tool to help us mature. That's fine, too. If we want a spot on a council, it's available to us anytime we want to step into it.

When I first started having visions more than twenty years ago, one of the first things God showed me was one of his councils—his sod or inner council. I remember walking into a huge room and slowly approaching the front. Seats designated for specific individuals lined both sides of the aisle. As I drew closer to the front, I began to recognize people. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there. Standing next to her was Luke. To my surprise, I noticed a seat with my name on it. Then the vision ended.

At the time, few people were talking about heavenly councils. Somehow I ended up researching the word sod in the Bible, wrote a short paper on it, and filed it away. I knew God was asking me to be

on his sod. Since I had no idea what that meant or how to do it, I did nothing. Twenty years passed.

For most of that time, I had stopped having visions. Then, slowly, visions geared up for me again. One day I was listening to a Christian teacher at home. Without warning, my entire body started shaking. As best as I could tell, the frequency or atmosphere that this man's words resonated at were waking up something deep inside me.

Suddenly, three or four members of God's inner council were standing around me. I felt so at home with them. It seemed like my spirit had found the place it belonged or even the place it had come from long ago.

"Welcome back," the council members were saying. "You made it back. You're here again."

"I'm putting you on my sod," God explained.

I realized it wasn't a future promise that I'd sit on God's inner council one day. It wasn't even an invitation. It was an announcement. Even with those clear experiences, I doubted that I really had a seat on God's inner council. God had to swear to me about five more times that it was for real. He assured me it was something permanent that was mine forever.

My main objection was that I didn't think someone like me could join God's sod. Who was supposed to be on these councils anyway?

#### WHO IS ON THE COUNCILS

Who serves on heaven's councils? Here's a quick look at what the Bible, the Talmud, and tradition reveal (see below and Chart 2-4).

## Members of Heaven's Councils

S A N H E D R I N S Y S T E M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially, elders or heads of family lines</li> <li>In the end—anyone who demonstrated seven qualities (things like wisdom, humility, and love) could be chosen for city or national leadership. Any member of the synagogue could be chosen for councils of three.</li> </ul>
S O D <i>“Inner Council”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God’s closest friends (Job 29:4; Ps. 55:14)</li> <li>Holy ones (Ps. 89:7)</li> <li>Just, right ones (Ps. 111:1)</li> </ul>
E D A H <i>“Assembly”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Righteous (Ps. 1:5)</li> <li>gods (Ps. 82:1)</li> <li>Sons of the Most High (Ps. 82:6)</li> </ul>
Q A H A L <i>“Gathering,” Ekklesia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holy ones (Ps. 89:5 (Ps. 89:6 in Hebrew))</li> <li>People, citizens (Ps. 107:32)</li> <li>Faithful, devout (Ps. 149:1)</li> <li>Ekklesia of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23)</li> </ul>
N O   S P E C I F I C W O R D   U S E D F O R   C O U N C I L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gods (Ps. 138:1)</li> <li>Hosts/armies (Ps. 148:2)</li> <li>Holy ones (Deut. 33:2; Hos. 11:12 (Hos. 12:1 in Hebrew), Zech. 14:5; Jude 1:4)</li> </ul>

What do these passages unveil? First, most of the congregations in heaven are made up “the faithful,” “the holy,” or “the righteous.” Some scholars believe those terms can describe angels. Angels and other spiritual beings can be on heaven’s councils. I believe those terms also describe people in heaven who are fully manifesting their true nature. Or, in the words of Hebrews 12:23, the council members are “the spirits of the righteous, who have been made perfect” (NET).

How perfect are people in heavenly councils? Psalm 82:1 calls them “gods” and Psalm 82:6 calls them “sons of the Most High.” Jesus used



this Psalm in defense of his own divinity (John 10:34). On heaven's councils sit people who, like Jesus, are displaying their divine nature far more fully than people on earth. When you interact with someone on a heavenly council, you'll encounter a person whose nature isn't hidden under layers of emotional trauma or guilt. They know who they are and are living from it.

Instinctively, I knew people in heaven were farther along in their spiritual journey than I was. Sure, I had encountered council members

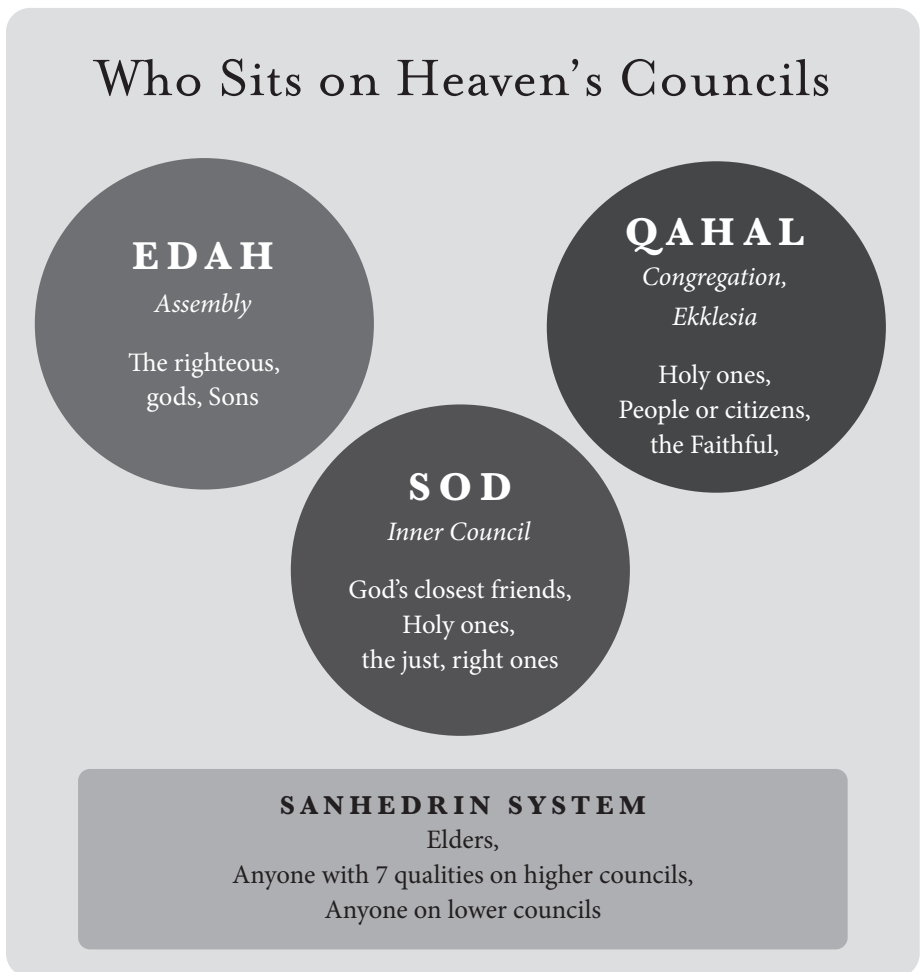


Chart 2-4. Who Sits on Heaven's Councils

on local councils who (to me at least) didn't appear as glorified as people on heaven's higher assemblies. But even they were much more whole and happy than I was. Was I going to throw off the mix of God's inner circle by joining? I soon found out.

#### PERFECTED SELF NOT REQUIRED

After God told me I had a seat on his inner council, I decided to pursue it. How did I join the sod? I just stepped into heaven in my mind, thinking, "I'm going to go to God's inner council chamber." Just intending to meet with the inner council opened it up for me. Every day for a season I'd step into heaven with that intention. I had a number of encounters.

As it turns out, you don't have to be walking in your perfected self to join a heavenly council. My own inclusion in heaven's councils made that point clear. After my first council meeting, a fellow member told me, "Some people think you shouldn't be on this council yet—because you're not fully integrated."

Although I wasn't sure what she meant by "fully integrated," I wasn't rattled. "God wanted me here now," I replied.

"I know. God wants you on this council before you're integrated," she told me. "He says he wants people in heaven to work with someone who isn't fully integrated yet so they learn how to do it. He says there will be many not-fully-integrated people beginning to come here and work with us. So he wants them to learn how to do it by working with you before the others come."

Heaven is going to be flooded with people on earth not "fully integrated" working with people in heaven. We don't have to be over every issue in our lives before we're given responsibility in heaven.

## HOW COMMON IS IT TO BE ON A HEAVENLY COUNCIL?

Heaven is preparing for an influx of not-fully-integrated people to join the ranks of its working members. How many of us will join heaven's councils while still living on earth? God hopes the answer is, "Millions."

Probably twenty years ago I had encounters with some of heaven's large assemblies. In one of these experiences, I found myself standing in line to go through a check-in process, almost like a security check. Angels were inspecting everyone before they could enter a large auditorium or stadium in heaven. As they were processing us, they'd hand us a white robe to wear when we entered the assembly.

Inside the huge auditorium were thousands and thousands of seats. A few of them were filled here and there. But the vast majority were empty. On stage was Holy Spirit, giving a lecture about some heavenly truth he wanted revealed on earth. I realized that everyone in the auditorium would hear the same message—all over the world—at the same time. We'd each be able to incorporate heaven's truth into whatever area we had authority over on earth. After Holy Spirit finished, Jesus stood up to lecture. Then he walked around the auditorium, personally greeting the people who were there.

I returned to that scene a couple times over the years. Once more seats were filled than had been originally. Still the vast majority of the chairs were empty. After my encounters, I heard of others reporting similar visions. The message is clear: You have a spot on a heavenly council. You may step into it whenever you feel ready.

## WHAT DO YOU DO ON A COUNCIL?

What do council members do? That's like asking someone, "What do you do at work?" The answer varies depending on what your job is. I'll share three kinds of meetings I've participated in or observed—one-on-one, smaller councils, and larger councils. Keep in mind my main experience has been with God's sod.

## One-on-one

Most of the time I've logged on God's personal sod hasn't been in a large board room with busy angels rushing around. I've just met with God privately, listened to his thoughts, and given my opinions. Sometimes he shares what he calls "secrets." (Another translation for the word sod is "secret.") To me the greatest treasure of this council has been how it's deepened our relationship.

When I first joined God's sod I had a number of interactions with others on the same council. I grilled them with questions. I was trying to absorb all I could about this council. Once I asked a man what his favorite part of being on God's sod was.

"The work is satisfying," he replied. "But my favorite part has got to be the secrets." When I asked him why the secrets were so awesome, he told me they were "absolutely blissful." He confided, "Knowing God's secrets is blissful beyond compare."

Now that I have more personal experience myself, I'd also agree the secrets are the best part. I'm not sure I've gotten a high simply on God sharing his secrets yet. But knowing God intimately, which is part of what the sod is, has certainly been my biggest source of spiritual bliss.

A main purpose of being on God's inner council is to strengthen intimacy between you and God. Personally, I believe everyone is invited to sit on this council, but not everyone has taken God up on his invitation. Isn't it great that God builds closeness while giving people responsibility and a voice into his private matters? Like us, God enjoys letting those closest to him into his personal space. He values their opinions. He rearranges things in response to their input.

Another way God explained his sod to me once is that he set things up so his mind and heart would be reflected outward and expressed by us. God decided not to make a decision or bring an issue to any council of heaven until that idea had revealed itself through his sod. The inner council is meant to be an expression of God's heart and thoughts. It's

like the sod is an outward projection of God's inmost thoughts. God's deepest places are observed by those closest to him, then mirrored by them outwards. The sod may be the part of council work that comes the nearest to expressing our oneness with God. But even being on the sod isn't as close as we can come to God. This council, too, could be replaced with a deeper, oneness intimacy.

What's this private council work supposed to accomplish? The purpose of these one-on-one sessions with God isn't to solve the problems of galaxies. It's to minister to God himself. Or it's to advise him on private matters. I've witnessed things shifting inside God as we discussed a subject or hung out together. The beauty of relationships is that they're meant to change us. God's designed things so that he benefits from his relationship with us as much as we do from our relationship with him.

### **Smaller council meetings**

Beyond these one-on-one sessions, God has taken me into numerous council meetings. Sometimes he's told me it's "training." In other words, the experience may appear real. But it's all to help me learn and mature. No actual galaxies would be harmed if I messed up.

"I want you to see what I do at work," God told me a couple times. "Come into the council meetings. Get your bearings. Learn the process. When you're ready, I'll make the experiences carry real responsibility."

In those encounters, I knew it was just for training. Other times God told me it was "real." Sometimes I haven't been sure whether it was practice or the real thing. Sometimes I was in a smaller council meeting. Other times it was a larger council.

In the smaller meetings, often a person would share an issue and ask for opinions about how to address it. For example, in the first meeting of God's sod I attended (whether for real or for practice, I'm not sure), I was told: "There's something God wants to release on earth, but there's no one to hold it within them and be the container it can grow in. God

wants us to figure out the best way to develop a person to receive and grow what he wants to release.”

“I think we could plant the idea in a community of people. Have this community foster the idea and grow it among them,” one council member offered.

“I like the idea of sowing the seed wide,” another suggested. “Just get the message out there to a lot of people and see who it sticks with. We’ve started revivals that way before—as you know.”

“We could have angels start appearing to people with the message,” a third one proposed.

“I’m not sure about heavenly messengers delivering it,” someone questioned. “If it’s too outside the doctrine they’re used to, they will likely call it ‘deception’ not ‘revelation.’ Is this far from the current doctrine?”

“Yes, it isn’t close to the doctrine followed now,” another council member replied. “Someone is bound to think it’s deception, and the whole thing will shut down. If you want to use heavenly messengers, the message has to be close enough to the doctrine they believe for them to accept it—but far enough away that it does give them something new.”

“What do you think, Katharine?” someone asked me.

“My heart is drawn to the community,” I replied. “I like the idea of having more than one person raise an idea to maturity. We’d have an entire group who could nurture it and take care of it when one person gets tired. I like the sowing-seeds-widely concept, but it doesn’t seem to fit with what I sense in God’s heart now. So I vote for the community idea. What idea does God want to release anyway?”

“It’s a theology about who he is birthed from intimacy with him,” one of them explained.

“If that’s the case,” I answered, “my vote is definitely the community.”

I’ve had a few experiences like that one where I was presented with an issue, heard other people’s input, and then was asked for my opinion. Once the question put to us was whether Muslims should experience

a crisis. The crisis would cause large numbers to enter their ultimate purpose very quickly. But it would be extremely trying, of course. So should we have a crisis or not? I had no opinion on that one. I believe the council opted for a balanced approach—a balance between crisis and quickly entering purpose.

Another time God invited me into a council meeting where the issue was strategies to have more people in China saved. That time I just listened to people's ideas and God's comments on them. One man on the committee stood out to me because he spoke with such love. When I looked at him, I realized he had very different theological beliefs than I did when he lived on earth. Yet there he was on a council close to God with such a deep love pouring out of his heart.

One function of God's sod can be to advise another council on what course of action would flow with God's heart at the moment. The idea is the sod is made up of people whose job it is to know God's depths well. They've focused on God in a personal way—rather than a work capacity or some other aspect of who he is. So they can advise councils about what plan would best flow with God's heart. Other times they'll advise God himself on a certain matter.

Why not ask God his opinion directly? When I put that question to God, he replied, "If someone knows my heart as well as I do, then it really doesn't matter which one of us they ask, does it?"

The smaller council meetings I've experienced, then, have centered on discussing an issue to give advice to God or one of his other councils.

### **Larger Council Meetings**

In my experience, larger councils are less likely to advise. Their main task is to rule on issues the council has jurisdiction over. Although the specifics can vary from one council to the next, a couple overall protocols apply.

First, Daniel 7:10 declares: "The court was seated, and the books were opened" (NIV). The way God explained that verse to me is that a book

is kept for many heavenly councils, recording petitions made to them or events that are relevant to their work. The books for the sod are usually private. The books for councils who serve the public are open to the public. Some angels are tasked with recording events and petitions for the council's records. Or people can write their own petitions and submit them to the book. When the council meets, that book is opened and the council rules on what's written in it.

Second, some councils have specific dates for their meetings. But you don't have to wait for a preset date. Someone can call for a meeting of the council at a time they wish it to meet. If no one calls for a session, then the council will be opened at a minimum on the days established. God set it up that way in case no one called for a meeting. God didn't want the books closed for long periods of time.

For example, God set up a jubilee year every fifty years. In a jubilee, debts were forgiven and inheritances returned. But God never intended for us to wait fifty years for those things to happen. We can call a council session to address our petitions whenever we wish. Even if we don't call a session, however, our situation will be ruled on when the council is scheduled to meet.

Third, council rulings can apply to spiritual and natural creation. In Daniel 7, for example, the council's decision changed the government structure on earth. It also shifted the government of heaven—giving it dominion over the earth. Being able to rule throughout creation is an important aspect of council work. It's what makes heavenly councils more effective than earth-based ones.

Finally, we can be "promoted" to higher levels of councils as we mature. All of heaven (councils included) is a context for our maturing. So the system is set up to have different levels of councils whose work increasingly draws on deeper aspects of our divine nature. For example, anyone in God's heavenly city Zion may join the council of the "citizens" or "people" of Zion (Psalm 107:32). But only those who are identifying



fully with their God-nature may participate in the “council of the gods” (Psalm 82:1,6). Which council will we start on? One that perfectly fits our needs and desires.

In sum, in a larger council meeting, you make decisions based on what’s on the agenda—or written in the book—to be covered in that session. Your rulings can impact every layer of creation.

### **Example**

I thought I’d share one example of a larger council. Several times I found myself in the same large council chamber. At the time, I wasn’t sure which council it was. Looking back on it, I think some of the “protocols” I observed apply to many of the large councils. Here’s one experience from my journal for you to evaluate:

Placing the book back on the table, I turned to the woman I had been speaking with. When I looked at her face more closely, it kept shifting among four images—bull, eagle, lion, person. It looked weird. “Do we all eventually become like that?” I asked.

“In time, who knows what can happen,” she answered. “Come, I need to show you a few things.”

She brought me into the “main” room where the larger council meets. It had blue carpet and more formal chairs. There was no one there now, just the cleaning crew. I asked her a few simple questions about the council.

“Look at how many seats are unoccupied,” she said. “We need the others who are supposed to be here to come.”

“How do we do that?” I asked.

“Look at the scroll here,” she pointed to a book in the middle of the space. “It has the names of all the people who are supposed to be on this council. If we read out those names, it helps their spirits realize they are supposed to be here.”

I kept looking around the room, touching things and trying to gain my bearings. Eventually she said something like, “Are you going to ask

me the most important question or should I ask it for you?” Since I had no idea what the most important question was, she suggested, “Look under one of the desks.”

When I did, I noticed three pieces of paper bound together. It was sort of like how carbon paper used to be bound to other pieces of paper. You could write on one paper, and the same writing would appear on all layers. The top paper was made of gold. The middle one was made of a bright shining layer. The bottom one seemed to be regular paper.

“Eat it,” she directed.

When I ate the gold one, it was a bit crunchy, but had no taste. The middle one also had no taste for me. The bottom layer tasted sweet and melted in my mouth. “What does that mean?” I asked.

“The three layers of paper stand for the three layers that the council can mandate over—the heavenly realm, the spiritual realm, and the earthly realm. That is the most important thing to remember about the council. You can legislate and change things on all three levels. Every decree can go out into all the levels,” she replied. [Being able to rule over both natural and spiritual creation is what makes heavenly council work more effective than addressing an issue only from earth.]

Then she took me to a room adjacent to the main room. In it was a tall vat of liquid. People who had created a cure for a disease could present their potions to the council in this room. I realized the “cures” were not something medical doctors created. They were spiritual remedies for illnesses and things that had plagued humanity. The cure was something that treated the root cause of an illness—spiritually and on every level.

The person presenting the cure would pour it in the vat. Then the council would test it. If it were certified that the potion really did cure the disease, then an order would go out from the council that the disease could no longer exist on the earth. She explained that there were different groups working on cures now. But an organizer (I don’t think that’s the exact word she used) was going to come along and connect the groups.

Then the cures would really expand. “But you don’t need to know all that because that’s not your area. Come with me.”

We entered an adjacent room. It was a research area. In it was a huge computer that represented something created by the councilors to help them do research on their matters.

“People think the council works like magic,” she explained. “They think we know all these things and speak with wisdom. But it’s not magic. We’re growing in our knowledge, but we don’t yet have all the knowledge of heaven. So we do research our decisions before we make them. We’ve created something that allows us to collect knowledge throughout the universe.”

Leading me to the next room, she called over her shoulder, “There’s one more space you need to see today.” That room was filled with files. “This is where you’re assigned,” she said.

“The file room!” I exclaimed. “I thought I had a place on the council, not in the file room.” (It reminded me of my early days at the law firm. Young associates would go through massive amounts of files as their contribution to the case. As we gained experience, we’d take on more responsibility.)

“You can do both,” she replied. “In heaven it is an honor to serve.”

When the council member left, an angel who worked in the file room immediately started talking. “These are records of all the cases that will ever be petitioned to the council. At first we didn’t need a file system because we’d get just a case or two every so often. Then so many people started filing cases, that we needed a way to keep track of everything.”

“Why are there so many files if you’ve only recently started getting a lot of cases?” I asked.

“We decided to go ahead and create a file for every case that would ever be petitioned,” the angel explained. “When you operate outside of time, it just seemed to make sense to do it that way. I think we should organize the cases by category,” he continued. “We could have ‘widows’ over here, and ‘desperate pleas’ over here, for example.”

“That idea doesn’t make any sense,” I objected. “What if it’s a widow who has a desperate plea? How are you going to file it? Why not by date?”

“People from different times are interacting with the cases. It would get too confusing,” he explained.

“How about by name?” I suggested.

Another angel spoke up. He mentioned a technology I hadn’t heard of, but it made sense. It was basically “smart paper.” Encoded in the paper was a case number, key words, name, and also something like a frequency. So you could file the paper almost anywhere and be led to it by thinking of any of those things—number, frequency, category, name.

“Do we need a piece of paper at all?” I questioned. “Couldn’t we just make it electronic?”

“Nope,” the second angel replied. “God insists that everyone be able to hold their decree from the courts in their hands. It has to be a real piece of paper.”

“In that case, let’s go with the smart paper,” I decided.

What I appreciated about that encounter was its overall picture of large council work. First, there were books or files that contained petitions to the council—just as Daniel 7 indicated. The council would open those petitions and rule on them. Second, the council had jurisdiction over three realms—heavenly, spiritual, and earthly. The distinction between “heaven” and the “spiritual” realm wasn’t explained. Perhaps “heaven” is God’s kingdom and the “spiritual” realm in spiritual creation. Again, just as in Daniel 7, the council’s ruling could impact creation at every level.

Third, I loved that I was to begin in the file room and be given greater responsibility as I grew into it. We’re all placed in exactly the best spot for us to learn and grow the most—with a chance for promotion. Finally, I appreciated the glimpse at what some councils rule on, including the elimination of illnesses from earth. As we begin to restore creation to its original design, councils have a role to play, too, if we wish to use them.

## NEW SYSTEM COMING?

About half the time I've been in a larger council room, I wouldn't have an enlightening discussion. I wouldn't make fascinating observations. Instead, the same thing would happen. I'd get about sixty seconds into the council meeting and God would look at me. This "whhah—whhah" would go from him and hit me. Then I'd start resonating with a "whhah—whhah" back to him. Within seconds, I was hit with divine bliss. That was the end of my ability to concentrate on the council meeting. In some cases, the council session itself was derailed or dismissed because the flow between God and me was that disrupting.

The last time that started to happen, God tried to rescue the meeting. Pulling me aside, he let the council continue their work. "I'm really going to have people open up the scriptures to you about this," God whispered. "I think you'll find my work as satisfying as knowing other aspects of me." I could tell he really wanted to teach me more about councils.

Then I looked over at him and the "whhah-whhah" thing started again. Instantly, I knew this scene was going to end like the others. "I'm realizing why councils will be replaced," God smiled. "As fascinating as they are, there is something better."

Ultimately, my guess is intimacy and oneness with God will replace the council system in heaven. You may be able to sit through an entire council meeting and love it. Or you may find yourself pulled into the bliss with God and become distracted. Either way is fine. We do seem to be at a transition point in heaven. Some people will flow with the council system. Others may forge the new paradigm that's coming.

HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE  
ON HEAVEN'S COUNCILS?

Another huge question I had initially was how do I communicate with people on heaven's councils? I'd see council members "talk" to each other so quickly, it seemed like they were exchanging information at the

speed of sound. I couldn't follow it.

Early on, I tried to communicate with someone on a council with me, and the guy had a hard time doing it at first. It seemed he was used to people being able to know what he was thinking and feeling—and knowing everything about him—instantly. He had difficulty slowing down enough for me to catch his flow. By the end of our conversation, though, he had gotten a lot better communicating his meaning to me.

Likewise, sometimes it can take a few minutes for me to catch the spiritual TV or radio “channel” the person is flowing in (so to speak). Once I latch onto it, though, communication is easier.

My working theory is that each council has its own broadcast frequency. My guess is everyone on that council can tune to that frequency and instantly flow with each other—exchanging ideas and making decisions in split seconds. I'm not sure that's actually how it works, though. It's just a theory based on a couple interactions.

When I first started meeting with councils, I asked a lot of questions about how they work. “When do you meet? Where do you meet? How do you communicate?” I'd grill council members when I saw them.

Once I asked a member of God's sod when the council met. He replied, “All the time, everywhere.”

“How can you do that?” I wondered.

“We're all connected to each other,” he explained. “So we can discuss things anytime, no matter where we are.”

“I'd like to be connected to you, too,” I told him and the woman next to him.

In response, the woman hummed a note for a few seconds. To me it seemed like it was a pitch or tone or frequency they were all aligned to. She asked me to hum it, too. When I tried, something began to happen inside me. Then she hummed a note on a slightly higher frequency. I mimicked. Then she hummed a lower tone. When I tried the third tone, something that felt like little blobs of electricity started going off inside me.

“This feels weird!” I exclaimed. Little sparks were moving around my insides. As it continued, I became scared. Everything was so new to me that I wasn’t sure if what I was doing was kosher. (Also, I was driving and didn’t want to become distracted.) I pulled back from the experience. Afterwards I forgot about it and didn’t try it again.

My guess (and it’s only a guess) is that each council has its own frequency. Like TV or radio stations broadcast on a certain frequency, perhaps heavenly councils do the same. Anyone who tunes into a certain TV or radio station can pick up on the information no matter where they are. Perhaps heaven’s frequencies allow a two-way exchange of information—back and forth—anywhere, anytime. Could humming a sequence of tones lock you onto a certain broadcast channel? Could you then flow with that council’s collective thoughts—no matter when or where you are?

Another time an angel handed me a letter written a long time ago by someone on earth. Apparently, the angel had been instructed to hand it off at the appropriate time. When I tried to read it, I realized it was written in a language that could be understood only through love. My love had to reach a certain point before I could decipher it. Beyond this letter, I realized there were languages and meanings that could be progressively unlocked with greater and greater amounts of love. In other words, there are records in heaven and records inside each of us that are written in a spiritual language that can be understood only through love. Instantly, I realized that’s how council members read and communicate—through love.

According to some scientists, love has a certain frequency in the natural creation. Is there a frequency of love in the spiritual creation, too? Do heaven’s councils broadcast in the bandwidth of love? What if we tuned into heaven’s broadcast, while our own hearts were filled with love in the natural creation? Would we be able to give and receive input with others in heaven (and earth) simultaneously? Is love the secret to heaven’s communication?

## HOW DO YOU JOIN A COUNCIL?

Having unpacked some questions about heaven's council, one issue remains—how do you join? There's no formula for joining a council. If you'd like to take your seat, I'd suggest connecting with God and asking him which council you're to serve on. God may whisk you directly onto council work. Or there may be more pressing matters for you to focus on with him.

Another approach is to do what I did. Picture yourself in heaven and say something like, "I'm connecting with the council I am supposed to be on now." You may have encounters that your conscious mind is aware of. Or your intention may jolt something in your spirit—connecting you to heaven in ways you don't track consciously.

If being on a council is something you'd like to experience, pursue it. Ask God for it. Pretend to be on your council. Sooner or later, your practice will become your reality.

Every one of us has council seats set aside for us. There are no exceptions. Every one of us is fully qualified to step onto any council right now. You don't have to earn anything or do anything. You are everything you need. Taking a seat on a council is just a matter of matching your intention to be on a council with your experience. If you want it, you have the right to be there. Set your intentions towards it however works best for you.

## FOR OUR BENEFIT

Taking a seat on heaven's councils does produce real results. We can hear heaven's latest teachings directly. We can even make decisions that impact the universe. Ultimately, though, serving on a council is for our benefit. It helps us mature—if we choose to use that tool.

I don't worry about whether the experience I'm having is for real or for training. If it's for training, then the purpose is to help me mature by teaching me more about myself and heaven. If it's for real, then the



purpose is the same. The only difference is whether the decisions or suggestions we make change others' lives or just our own.

To put council work in perspective, I think about God's theology council. I had a meeting with that council once. It's part of his sod. I was so nervous about it. I couldn't believe they wanted to talk to me. About a year later, God told me, "I'm putting you on my theology council. I want every doctrine that comes out to be sifted through the perspective we're developing together."

I love how God takes us full circle. I used to stand in awe of heaven's council. (OK, I still do.) I couldn't believe I was interacting with them. Then I found myself on the very councils I had admired. There's even a step beyond serving on God's councils, though.

## Forming our own Councils

We can interact with a heavenly council to help us accomplish our work on earth (or heaven). We can take a seat on a heavenly council. We can also form an entire governmental structure where we are the central monarch. Imagine replicating all of heaven's government structure—in your own kingdom. I've met several of heaven's kings who have done just that.

The way I see it, these kings and queens have matured to the point where they rule a galaxy or part of the cosmos. They've created councils around them to help them rule. Once we mature in heaven, we can do what God did. We can help others mature by creating positions in our realms to give others responsibility. Serving on our councils helps other people unlock who they are more fully. In turn, heaven's kings and queens are genuinely enriched and assisted by the people (and beings) who serve on their councils.

### AN EXAMPLE

The first time I met some of heaven's kings, I was taking a walk, talking to God. Suddenly, people dressed like heavenly kings crowded

around me in the spiritual realm. They were vying with each other to hand me a small, round object from their kingdom. The objects looked like tokens. God later explained that the tokens were an invitation to visit the area of heaven they rule over. It was a way to jump directly to their kingdom. At the time I just accepted a few of the tokens and did nothing about it.

About six months later, God told me, “Use a token one of those kings gave you.”

Selecting a token at random, I pictured myself lifting it up. In my mind I declared, “I’d like to visit the realm of this king in heaven.”

Immediately, I felt like I was in a different place in heaven. A king came out to greet me. “Welcome,” he said warmly. “We have a banquet prepared for you. But you probably want to skip to the important part, right?”

“Sure, skip the banquet,” I replied.

Eagerly, he led me to a meeting room. “I’ve gathered my closest friends and advisors—my personal sod—for your visit,” he explained. “The government of each kingdom in heaven mirrors the government God set up over heaven itself. Just like God has a council made up of his closest friends who advise him, each king creates his own sod.”

As we walked into the room, I was overwhelmed at the wisdom and riches that radiated from this group of advisors. Dressed in wealthy, colorful clothes, they beamed with welcome and anticipation.

“She’s here,” the king announced. Turning to me, he explained, “We’d like your help with the item on the table.”

A bright light was emanating from an object resting on a table in the center of the room. Walking over to it, I stooped down to see what it was. “It looks like a fragment of Isaiah’s scroll,” I announced. “No wait, it’s changing. It’s also a fragment from different Bible texts.”

“This is one of the treasures given to this kingdom at its foundation,” the king explained. “When God establishes one of his children as a king or ruler of heaven, he gives us three founding gifts. They become

intertwined with the mission of the kingdom. They are part of what we radiate to the universe, and part of what we contribute to the glory and splendor of heaven and earth.”

“In other words, you help people through unlocking and using these treasures,” I replied.

“Yes, my advisors and I have always felt that this treasure has not been fully revealed and used,” the king answered. “We believe someone who lives in the end times on earth will help us understand its meaning more fully—and take its meaning to earth. That’s why we invited you here.”

“How could I understand something better than you all—great kings and friends of kings in heaven?” I asked, deeply puzzled.

“You have a perspective we lack,” the king replied. “It is together that we unlock all God has for us—even in heaven. By asking you to partner with us, I am not suggesting that I am inadequate in some way. I’m showing you how we are all one in God. We are all part of each other and need each other. You will find this true in heaven, too.”

“I’d love to help you, but I’m not sure what I could offer,” I answered.

“Start by telling us what you think the item is,” the king suggested.

“To me it looks like the scripture fragments people found at Qumran—the Dead Sea Scrolls. I think it could represent not a single find, but many or even all of the ancient texts that would be unearthed in the latter days on earth. There’s probably a deeper truth about scripture that God wants to reveal through those texts. That’s why the light is shining so brightly out of it. Just a guess, though,” I offered.

“Brilliant,” the king replied. “Our kingdom would have authority over releasing the light from those texts, if you are correct. Would you like to partner with us in revealing truth from these ancient scriptures?”

I peered at the king more closely. Then I thought about the clothes his advisors were wearing. “Were you a believer in Africa when you lived on earth?” I asked. “There were ancient texts preserved in Ethiopia. Are you connected with those?” Suddenly, I had an idea.

“The fragment on this table doesn’t represent just Qumran finds. It includes the ancient texts preserved in Ethiopia. Those texts are going to become important—and release a new light to the church. And guess what I just remembered?” I grew excited. “The book of Enoch was preserved the best by Ethiopian scribes because they considered the book part of scripture.

“You have been given the treasure,” I announced with a flare, “of releasing light in the last days through the ancient, forgotten texts—including the book of Enoch. Would I like to help you unveil the truths in those texts? Absolutely!”

I loved a couple things about that encounter. First, God could have just told me, “Study the book of Enoch and other books in the pseudepigrapha. They contain important truths I want released now.” But it was far more exciting to explore the topic with a king of heaven. Through the brief interaction with this king, I had already gained a fuller perspective on the assignment than if God had just told me, “Study Enoch.”

Second, the king made a point of explaining that he set up his own government structure. He introduced me to his sod and I interacted with them in action. Heaven isn’t about us serving God. It’s not about us ruling with God. It’s about us becoming the fullness of who we are. Heaven is a context to deepen our maturity. The government of heaven is a tool that we can use (or not use) to further our own maturity. That’s why we can become kings or queens of heaven and set up our own councils around us. Doing so could help us—and the people on our councils—to mature.

Third, the king set up a council system around him not because he loved protocols, but because he loved the people. The point of joining with others on councils is to live connected to them. The king enjoyed the relationships. He understood how they were mutually beneficial.

Of course, we don’t have to see ourselves as rulers of heaven. We could use a different tool to mature. We could skip that part. But setting up our own council system does exist as a way to help us mature if we

want to use it. God isn't threatened by us having our own governments. He designed it that way for our benefit.

#### GETTING PRACTICAL

Practically speaking, should we be setting up a council system around us? How would we do it? On one level, it's not anything we need to worry about. Often these things take care of themselves as we mature. The spiritual world responds more to our intentions and the amount of our divine nature we're living from than it does to formulas we recite or doctrines we believe. I've seen people who know nothing about heaven's government structure functioning more proficiently in some areas than people who teach in depth about heaven's councils. It's not a matter of learning a set of protocols about how to set up a council system. It's about becoming who we are.

Second, no matter where we are on our journey, we can surround ourselves with people from the cloud of witnesses to advise us. They can function like a sod for us—no matter what the size of our area of influence.

One purpose of creating our own councils is to live connected to others—to draw on who they are as we live out who we are. So it can be a beautiful thing to set up an inner circle or other groups around us. Our inner councils are meant to be filled with people who are invested in the things we are, who love us, and who can offer input into our lives in the areas that we need it.

When we establish our advisors and councils, it can be a two-way selection process. We can pick them. Sometimes they choose us. When I first started interacting with the cloud of witnesses, a man named William Branham acted like a spiritual father to me. He told me once that he had asked to be on a council advising me personally. Isn't that great that people can request whose life they want to speak into? At first I wondered why he would want to invest in my life. Then I thought about the purpose of an inner council. He saw my goals as similar to what he was invested in. I

could tell that cared about me personally because he treated me the way a father would. Finally, he believed he had insight into things I would step into and he could offer guidance. That's exactly who you want on an inner council—someone who shares your interests, who loves you, and who has wisdom in the areas you'll need it.

In sum, we can move from interacting with God's councils, to being on his councils, to crafting an entire system where we sit as supreme ruler. It's supposed to be as normal for us to work with someone in heaven as it is to work with someone on earth. Welcome to the new normal.

## 7. Clubs

In addition to heaven's official councils, there are heavenly groups that we can join, too. I think of them like clubs. These clubs do have real responsibility and do important work. But they weren't created by God as official councils of heaven. They were started by saints themselves. Once the saints arrived in heaven, they started pursuing things they were interested in. Sometimes they formed groups, built things together, and now have an incredible impact on earth through their "club."

The first club I interacted with was the "Mysteries of Heaven" club. In a vision, several members of the group appeared to me. Later I asked an angel who works with them to tell me more about them.

"Some of them were regular people on earth (not overly into God)," the angel explained, "and some were more serious about him on earth. But when they reached heaven, they became interested in uncovering the mysteries of heaven. They pursued it. They went so deep into the mysteries that it changed them. Then they wanted to bring an understanding of the mysteries to earth. They asked God what they should do and he told them to build something that would enable them to do it. So they built the mobile room you saw them in. They use it to help earth unlock heaven's mysteries."

When I first met some of these club members in a vision, they gave

me an assignment to help bring an understanding of a certain mystery of heaven to the earth. Later one of them showed up in my room, inviting me to step into heaven with him.

When I did, a group of people were there sitting around a table eating and laughing together. They handed me a robe like theirs. (They all wore a distinctive robe.) Then they welcomed me into a back room of the house and began talking to me about their hobby—investigating the mysteries of heaven.

“Welcome to our group!” they kept saying.

The group reminded me of a club—people working on a common interest while having fun together. Heaven’s clubs aren’t just for fun, though. They can have a huge impact on the earth.

## **Bonus! 8. People Alive on Earth Now**

For years I thought the only people I’d encounter from the cloud of witnesses were saints who had died and now lived in heaven. My understanding shifted one day while I was talking with a group of friends over the internet. We were practicing going into heaven together. In my mind I could see everyone on the call in a room in heaven.

“I sense that there are people from the cloud of witnesses in the room who would interact with us if we wanted to,” I announced.

“Look around and see if you recognize anyone,” someone on the call suggested.

As I looked around, I noticed several people. But I only recognized one of them. I ignored him because this person was alive on earth now. I had listened to years’ worth of his podcasts. Since he was alive now, I didn’t think it was OK to talk to him in heaven. I thought I had to talk to him on earth.

“Do you recognize anyone?” they asked me.

“Well, I do see someone I recognize. But he’s alive now. Is it OK to talk to him?” I asked.

“Of course,” they assured me. “We’re all one body.”

When I approached him, he talked with us for a minute or two. Then he invited us to a place in his heart. He offered us tea. He gave us a book from his shelf (representing insights he’d gained on earth and heaven). Then he started talking to me. It felt weird.

“I’ve done this—had conversations—with people from the cloud of witnesses,” I was telling the group on the call. “But I’ve never done it with someone who is alive on earth. Are you sure we can do this?”

I was thinking, isn’t he somewhere on earth doing something now or having a different conversation? Is this bothering him? Is it intruding on his personal space? But we were talking to his spirit, not his body. His mind probably wasn’t even aware of it. It was his spirit (which can be in more than one place at one time) that was imparting to us.

As we continued talking, he told me things that literally changed my life. Since that call, I’ve encountered many people’s spirits who are alive now. Sometimes they teach me something. Sometimes they pray for me. Sometimes we just talk. Because we are all God’s children, we are all in each other. We are “one body.” Just like I have access to every part of my physical body, we have access to every part of the spiritual body of humanity. There is no one who is separate from the others. We are all one.

## **Bonus! 9. People Alive on Earth in the Future**

The cloud of witnesses includes people who lived on earth before we did. Technically, it includes believers who are alive on earth at the same time we are. But what about people who live on earth after us? Can we encounter them in the cloud of witnesses?

Heaven exists outside of time. All of time is found there—at the same time. The past, the present, and the future can all be accessed in heaven. They coexist there. So, theoretically, we should be able to go to heaven and encounter people who lived at any point in earth’s history. But can we actually meet and become friends with people in heaven—who live in earth’s future?



I discovered the answer to that question in a way that shocked me. On another call, a group of friends and I met a woman in heaven. Dressed like a great queen, she was seated at a council table with people like the Apostle Paul. In the encounter, she befriended me. After spending five minutes with her, I felt like I had known her my whole life. A deep connection formed between us—almost instantly. After that call, we started hanging out together in heaven, developing a friendship.

A few weeks later I was on another call where we were encouraged to travel into the future. I don't understand how it all works, but I know that God does not restrict us to interacting with people and events just in our own lifetime. In heaven we have access to it all. Together the group went a little ways into the future. The way it looked in my mind was like we were on a boat in a river. The river represented the timeline. We could travel up or down the river and hop out at any point.

While the others were standing in the boat thinking about whether they really wanted to step into the future and explore, I decided to venture farther down the timeline myself. When I hopped out, guess who was waiting to meet me? It was the great queen from heaven I felt so close to! I was shocked. I had assumed she had lived in the past. I had assumed the only people I could meet in heaven were people who lived before I did. But here I was in her time on earth—and it was the future!

At the time I didn't understand why I felt so drawn to her and why I was almost magically led to her on the timeline. A couple years later I realized that our life purposes are intertwined. I'll be a forerunner for a certain truth that she will be part of when it reaches its apex—about 200 years from now! Our hearts felt drawn to each other because of this common purpose.

The day I found my future friend in her own time period, I met another person—a man who will have a forerunner calling on him. My heart was drawn to him because we both have forerunner blood in us. I started visiting him regularly. We became friends.

The first time I met him, he handed me a book, saying, “This book contains all the spiritual knowledge that was gained from your generation till mine. Don’t open it yet!”

A couple years later, as I was deciding to start online classes training people in the age to come, this man from the cloud of witnesses appeared to me again. “Open that book,” he directed. “Use it now.” Then he explained that he wanted to help me write training material for the age to come. “What you guys write will be a foundation. Without it, my group won’t be able to do what we do later,” he explained.

“But I won’t be able to write what I do unless you had given me this book and helped me understand things,” I protested. “How can you help form something that is the basis of what you know?”

I felt like it was a question of the chicken and the egg. Which came first? His knowledge or our knowledge?

“I’m just doing the next phase of manifestation,” he laughed. “You’re focused on trying to manifest something from a thought into a reality. The next part of manifestation is to go back to the beginning and form that, too.”

Mysteriously, all of humanity is connected—through all time and space. He will be able to do what he does because people in my generation are doing what we’re doing. Yet he’s not separate from our actions. He can help us form what will shape him. It feels like creating yourself.

I mention these two categories to broaden our perspective on the cloud of witnesses. We can have meaningful encounters with people alive on earth now. I’ve seen it like cloud of witness encounters—interacting with them spirit to spirit. Although there are different theories on how set in stone future events are, there seems to be a way to connect with people who will be alive in the future. Those spirits exist in heaven now. Why shouldn’t we be able to connect with them? Since all humanity is woven together, I wouldn’t rule out encounters with people who will

take your truth—the truth you helped shape or advance on the earth—and expand it in the future. In fact, we may be dependent on future generations helping us as much as future generations will depend on our work in what they do.

## **Bonus! 10. People in the cloud of witnesses you can help**

I used to think I'd be on the receiving end of any interaction I had with someone from heaven. Certainly, they would all be farther along in the maturation process than I would be, right? It may be because spiritual maturity isn't linear. It may be because we can excel in one area and be behind in another. For whatever reason, many people in heaven could learn and grow from their interactions with us.

As I've been revising this book, I've been surprised at the number of people from the cloud of witnesses, living in God's heavenly kingdom, who have approached me asking for help or seeking permission to take the course themselves.

The first guy who did so caught me off guard. As I was sitting down on my couch one day, his spirit came very close to me. "You're writing a book about the cloud of witnesses, aren't you?" he asked.

"That's right," I answered, a bit amused.

"Some parts of your book are profound," he confided. "They've helped me get more out of my experiences in heaven. Can I take your class, too?"

"Of course," I laughed. "Glad it's helped." After we chatted a few minutes, I asked him if there were any parts of the book that were off, in his opinion.

"Well, now that you mention it, you could change something," he offered, and gave me his input.

Another guy appeared in my room when I was engaging heaven with someone else. Our heavenly visitor invited us to his home in Zion. It was the hugest, most gorgeous house I had ever seen belonging to a

“regular” person in heaven. Based on the rich, elegant surroundings, I was expecting that he’d give us a phenomenal impartation or maybe an incredible teaching.

“I’ve asked you here,” he began as I leaned forward in anticipation, “because I need your help. My niece died on earth, but she isn’t here in heaven. I’ve looked everywhere for her. She should be here by now. What can I do? I want to find her and bring her here.”

“Why doesn’t he just ask God what to do?” the person I was having the encounter with wondered.

“I think he doesn’t know God as well as we do,” I whispered. “I think there are something like blocks inside him that are preventing him from receiving constant, direct communication from God.”

“You’re writing about the cloud of witnesses. I thought you may be able to help,” the man explained. “You see, on earth I had a lot of love in my heart. I lived from that love. It flowed to everything around me. When I arrived in heaven, I received a huge reward for my love. But on earth I wasn’t very focused on theology. I never bothered to study God or learn much about how things work spiritually. So I don’t really know what to do. I thought you could help me.”

I offered the man the best advice I could. What struck me about that encounter is that even someone with a huge heavenly reward can flow with God less fluently than some of us on earth. In many ways, we start in heaven where we left off on earth. Certain problems we had are instantly healed—like sickness and death. But our theological concepts are the product of our choices, our will. God will not violate our free will. We must choose—even in heaven—what we want to believe about God. If we see him as a distant ruler, that’s how we’ll interact with him. If he’s our dearest friend, then we’ll know him in that way.

Many people in heaven are choosing to expand their understanding of God and theology rapidly. There are classes in heaven they’re taking. And now I know some of them take our classes on earth, too. We are all

connected, helping each other with our own unique contribution.

Each of us will change lives in heaven, even while we're living on earth.

## Conclusion

When I first started interacting with the cloud of witnesses, I thought I was having a lot of random encounters. Then I realized the interactions were intentional. I started noticing different categories of people that were appearing to me. I realized that knowing what capacity they were interacting with me in helped me to gain more from our interactions.

### WHICH QUESTIONS TO ASK TO GLEAN THE MOST FROM YOUR ENCOUNTERS

I found it helpful to ask, “Why did I see that person?” Was it because I have a calling similar to their calling? Was I touching an area they have authority over? Did they want to impart something to me? Are they a tutor? Are they members of a club in heaven I may have fun joining? Are they part of a council that I could be part of one day? Was it a one-time interaction? Am I supposed to meet with them regularly?

When I have had even a brief encounter with someone from heaven, I've been able to glean more by thinking through those types of questions.

Because we have different relationships with people in heaven, they speak into our lives in different capacities. A relative who's sharing his experiences in heaven is speaking to me on a different level than a tutor or than someone on a high heavenly council. Knowing who they are in relation to me enables me to put their words in context.

### RIGHT TO RETURN

What if you meet with someone once—can you meet with them again? Can you turn a one-time encounter into something deeper? Absolutely! I've never had someone in heaven tell me, “Never come back and see me.” In fact, a lot of people have gone out of their way to let me

know I'm welcome to come see them anytime. Usually, they also let me know that the invitation to visit them is open to others, too.

In fact, we all have an open invitation from God to interact with anyone from heaven anytime. God gave us "free access" to interact with heaven—which means any person, any time (Zech 3:7). Every time I've tried to connect with someone a second time—whether or not they told me I could—I have been able to find them.

### TAKING RELATIONSHIPS DEEPER

How do we take our relationships with people from heaven deeper? Sometimes we'll see a person from heaven just so we can receive a single message from them. But other times people from heaven are meant to be something more significant to us. There are a couple people from the cloud of witnesses I would consider like a spiritual father or mother to me. How do those relationships form?

The first man I considered a spiritual father simply appeared to me himself a number of times and poured into my life. I could sense his genuine, fatherly love towards me. I knew he was invested in my life much more deeply than bringing me a message or a tool. He wanted to walk beside me—pulling, encouraging, and eventually partnering with me. For the most part, our relationship formed because he made a point of pursuing me.

Another person from the cloud of witnesses I consider to be like a spiritual father I met almost accidentally. I was just hanging out in heaven and he was there. Interacting with him impacted me greatly. When he suggested we meet regularly, I eagerly agreed. Somehow he could see the deepest level of what was going on in my life—and speak directly to it. A special connection developed between us. Some of the words he spoke to me, I wrote down and read again and again. They ministered to me profoundly.

The point is God didn't introduce us. God didn't assign the guy

to help me with something. We just happened to meet—and we both turned a one-time encounter into something deeper. That’s often how relationships develop on earth—organically. We don’t need a word from God to become deep friends with someone in heaven. We can pursue relationships as they present themselves to us.

Even people who don’t become significant in our lives can meet with us again. In fact, the same way I can sense God wanting to share something with me, I can sense a person from heaven wanting to share. Instead of knowing that it’s “God” who has something he wants to tell me, I have a sense that it’s a certain person from the cloud of witnesses who has input. If I say, “OK, I’m ready to hear what you have to say,” then it can open up a conversation with them.

Heaven is home to more than God alone. Heaven is a kingdom. There are people and angels and other beings there besides just the One we love. We can interact with all of heaven. God really has given us access to interact with anyone in heaven (Zech 3:7). When we think about it, it shouldn’t be surprising. If we can talk with God, if we can talk with angels, why wouldn’t we be able to talk to people, too? We’re going to hang out with them once we move to heaven permanently. And we have permission to begin our relationships with them now.





*Chapter Three*

# Seven Ways to Meet Someone from the Cloud of Witnesses

Before we delve into seven ways to trigger encounters with the cloud of witnesses, I want to address an important question: What does an encounter with someone from the cloud of witnesses look like? I'll answer that question on three levels. First, what do people literally see when they meet someone from heaven? Second, what kind of information should you expect to perceive? Third, what are some tips to help you see in the spiritual realm?

## **What do people see when they meet someone from heaven?**

Usually, people perceive the cloud of witnesses the same way they do God, angels, and other beings in the spiritual world. For me personally, it's a wide gamut. On one end, sometimes I hear words in my head and don't see anything. Most commonly for me, I either see something in the spiritual world or I'll sense the person near me in the physical world. On the far end of the spectrum, the person from heaven can seem like a person in the physical world. (I once briefly thought a man had broken into my house before realizing it was a cloud of witness encounter.)

However you perceive God, expect to perceive the cloud of witnesses

# Spectrum of Information our Senses can Perceive

HIGH  
FREQUENCY  
*Spiritual Realm*



What you see:  
**Spiritual objects  
and beings**



How you see it:  
**Spiritual senses**



*Meta-Physical or  
Energetic Realm*



What you see:  
**Energy flowing  
from objects  
and people in  
the physical and  
spiritual realms**



How you see it:  
**Meta-physical  
senses**



LOW  
FREQUENCY  
*Physical Realm*



What you see:  
**Physical objects  
and people**



How you see it:  
**Physical senses**



*Chart 3-1. Spectrum of Information our Senses can Perceive*

the same way. My working theory is that all spiritual communication is simply information being broadcast in a particular channel. (There's a channel for each being in heaven and earth). Refer to Chart 3-1 for a sketch of how the spectrum of spiritual communication could operate.

For example, there is information flowing off of me all along this spectrum. When people perceive the information I'm emitting in the physical realm, they can see my physical body. In the metaphysical or energetic realm, people can see energy and colors flowing off of me. In the spiritual realm, they can perceive my spiritual existence—anything from prophetic words about me to how my spiritual form looks to conversations with my perfected self.

In other words, the physical realm and the spiritual realm may not be two different things. It's possible they're a continuation of the same spectrum. Perhaps the physical realm is information (or sound or light) vibrating at a lower frequency. Our physical senses are able to pick up on the lower end of the frequency range easily.

The spiritual world could be information (or sound or light) vibrating at higher frequencies. Our spiritual senses are designed to pick up on that end of the spectrum. In between is what some people call the metaphysical. Others call it the energetic realm. It seems to be the frequency of light and sound just above what most people can perceive with their natural senses. Some people lump it into the spiritual world. Others want to place it squarely in the physical world. In reality it's probably the bridge between them.

For example, the famous scientist Michael Faraday probably could see in the metaphysical realm. He discovered electro-magnetism, the connection between the forces of electricity and magnetism. According to his contemporaries, he was a genius in the lab, able to understand the experiments like no one else could. Faraday himself reported that he could see energy moving around magnets. That's how he knew what was really going on in the experiments. His ability to see energy enabled a

brilliant scientific breakthrough.

Like Faraday, we're all wired to see the entire spectrum. Most of us, however, have blocks or disconnected wires or just dilapidated circuitry from lack of use. As we fix those problems, everything will come online—with the spiritual realm feeling just as real as the physical.

We're used to thinking of the physical and spiritual realms. I want to give you a few quick examples of the metaphysical or energetic realm to help you understand it better. Honestly, I have a hard time seeing in the energetic realm. It's much easier for me to see into the spiritual world. A friend of mine, however, is the opposite. She easily sees angels (and cloud of witness people's) energy signatures in the energetic realm, but has a harder time seeing in the spiritual realm.

When she first started seeing certain patterns of energy, she had no idea what they were. Then one day I walked into her room and happened to mention, "Oh, this is where your angel likes to stand. He's here now and he hangs out in this spot all night."

Immediately, she realized why she noticed certain patterns of energy in that location. It's what an angel's energy signature looked like! Soon she could recognize spiritual beings' energy patterns. She'll tell me, "There's a person (or angel or being) standing in front of you." Or she'll say, "You're wearing a long dress with a cross-stitch pattern down the front." Or "Your wings are spread out behind you." Or she's told me, "Your crown is tilting to one side today," when I was having an off day emotionally. She can see the energy around me forming those patterns. I can't.

I had seen myself in heaven wearing clothes like what she described. I had experiences where I felt like I was growing wings and flying. I'd been given crowns in the spiritual world. I had assumed those experiences were symbolic. I was shocked to learn that my encounters in heaven were reflected in the energy patterns that emanated from me. Anyone could read them—that is, anyone who could see that spectrum.

How does a person from heaven's energy pattern look? My friend

tells me she perceives a person from the cloud of witnesses (or an angel or being) in a few ways. First, she can see an outline of their body, with the head and chest being the clearest. At first, it looked like a thin line, almost like a pencil sketch. The energy seems more condensed where the person is standing and its shape doesn't move like some other shapes in the energetic world can. Second, she can see a hot spot of light (not unlike a lightbulb) on the person or angel's forehead and chest. Third, sometimes she sees a figure eight pattern over the hot spots of light—a pattern some people call the Celtic weave. Finally, she can perceive colors from their spiritual body or aura.

There are many more patterns that energy can flow in around us. Medical science is starting to map many of them now. It's possible to see any or all of the energy patterns around people—and people from heaven. The few that my friend sees most frequently are among the ones that many people who see energy can perceive most easily.

To be honest, I had written off auras and seeing energy as something for new agers only. Then my friend, who has lived only inside a very pious Christian family, confided that she was seeing these things. When I read a book about energy medicine, I realized that the patterns of energy she was seeing were well documented. For thousands of years people had reported seeing the same energy signatures. They had even named them. Eventually, I realized she was seeing just beyond what the average person is able to perceive with our physical senses. Like Michael Faraday, there are Christians and others who can see energy.

In sum, you may perceive a person from heaven in the energetic realm, seeing their energy patterns. Or you may interact with them in the spiritual realm. When we pick up on spiritual signals really strongly, the spiritual experience can seem like it's happening in the physical realm because it's so life-like.

## WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION CAN WE PERCEIVE?

Knowing what you may see is important. Equally vital, though, is knowing what kind of information you can pick up on when you interact with someone from heaven. I want to share two types of information we can perceive that you may not think about.

**1) Knowing everything about someone**

We're wired to literally know everything about any person or being we interact with. For example, I was hanging out with my friend who sees energy once. She was telling me how she could perceive the energy pattern of an angel standing right in front of us. I could sense the angel's presence. But I couldn't see a thing energetically. I was growing frustrated.

"You just have to believe you can see it, then you can see it!" my friend exclaimed.

Her words hit home. Closing my eyes, I kept telling myself, "When I open my eyes, I will be able to see this angel's energy pattern." Full of faith, I opened my eyes—and saw nothing. Then, with the physical room still looking the same, a scene spread out in my mind. I saw the angel standing in a beautiful meadow. (How a person or angel is feeling can be projected outward into a scene that surrounds them. If you see a scene, it's telling you about them—their personality or how they're feeling at the moment.) I observed details about his physical appearance. I could tell you about the atmosphere of the scene. Then I perceived what kind of personality the angel had. I knew what his favorite foods would be if he were a human on earth. I knew what he liked to do to relax. I could even perceive a bit about what his friends were like. I couldn't see him in the energetic realm. But I could see and hear him—and know him—in the spiritual realm.

Seeing in the spiritual world is far more than perceiving something visually. We have the capacity to know everything about a being—instantly. We can know their personality, their past, their future, every thought they ever had.

At times I've practiced that ability with the cloud of witnesses. They're easier to practice on, in my opinion, because they are people. They had a life on earth that can be easier to relate to than trying to perceive what an angel's life in heaven is like. Sometimes I've asked someone from the cloud of witnesses, "Do you mind if I try perceiving something about you?" I've tried to discern what their life on earth was like or what their favorite food is. It can be fun to broaden our spiritual perception with the cloud of witness folks.

## **2) Flowing in their "essence"**

Often we think of a spiritual encounter as seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching a person or scene in the spiritual world. In reality, what our spiritual senses perceive on that level is what I call a "mirage" or "green screen." It's a representation of reality that helps us understand what the spiritual being is communicating. But it's not the essence of the being itself.

For example, I once had an encounter where Jesus and I were eating a meal in an intimate, elegant setting. To give you the backstory, I am a white American who married an Asian man. I grew up with a European-American heritage. My husband is from an Asian family. Together our house is a blend of both cultures.

In my dinner encounter with Jesus, we were both dressed in expensive clothes that could have been worn by English nobility 200 years ago. I had long, light brown hair pulled up into an elegant bun. We were using costly silverware, eating delicious European or American style food. Suddenly, in the middle of a sentence, Jesus and I were dressed in clothes that Asian nobility would have worn 200 years ago. I was now an Asian woman. My long, black hair was tastefully pulled into a bun. We were using chopsticks, eating from Asian dishes. Jesus was interacting with me how an Asian man would if he were eating with someone he both loved and honored. A few minutes later the scene shifted back to

the European setting. Back and forth we toggled—without warning—through the entire meal.

Afterwards I asked Jesus, “What was up with dinner? Why couldn’t we stay in one setting?”

“Oh, it just means you feel comfortable in both cultures,” he replied.

The point of the encounter was to deepen our relationship as we shared an expensive meal in an elegant setting. That intention was projected onto a green screen where it looked like whatever would best convey the meaning to me. Notice that only the culture changed. The underlying message stayed the same. We wore expensive, old-fashioned clothes. We ate delicious food. The setting was elegant. I even wore my hair the same way. What I saw, heard, tasted, smelled, and touched was a projection of the underlying message. It was a truth broadcast in a way I could best understand it.

At first I thought all there was to a heavenly encounter was the green screen. What I saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched is all I thought existed. Then I started picking up on the flow that creates the green screen images. I call it the essence of the person we’re interacting with. We can step into the flow of their thoughts, emotions, and character traits. That information isn’t part of the mirage. It’s what creates the images of the mirage or green screen. It is the underlying reality.

To me it feels like waves coming out from the person and hitting me. It’s like standing in the ocean. You’re constantly in the water—in their flow. But you’re also being hit with waves of their essence.

Stepping into someone’s essence is one the first stages of oneness with them. We don’t just pick up on a single thought or feeling. We’re flowing in the stream of their essence, connected to it. We know what they’re thinking, feeling, and manifesting about themselves—not because there’s an outside signal we’re receiving. We’re flowing with that signal. It’s becoming part of us.

Some people step into God’s essence without seeing the green screen.



Others see the green screen, but don't connect as deeply with the underlying essence. We'll talk in a minute about how to connect with the green screen images. How do you connect with someone's essence?

Oneness is a result of intimacy. I've found that the better emotional or relational connection I have to someone, the easier it is to flow with their essence. Anything that builds a bond with the person works.

For me, if all I'm doing with God in an encounter is seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching, I'm unsatisfied. I'll do whatever I need to do to connect with his essence. Being immersed in what he's thinking and feeling is so much sweeter than just having a conversation with him. If I'm really in the flow, I can tell you not only the thought closest to the top of his mind, I can tell you the next thought down, and the one the layer under that and so on. At times I can sense multiple thoughts swirling around in God's head. I wonder which one he's going to choose. Then he'll select a thought and say something to me. If all I could do was hear his words, then the only information I'd have would be the thought he chose to say. When I can read his mind, I have a much deeper understanding of what he means.

At times God's asked me a question in a vision and I've told him, "I don't think that's the best way to word what you're thinking." I can hear his words. But I can also read his thoughts. Sensing the emotions he's feeling and the character traits he's exhibiting is so sweet, I'd recommend stepping into it whenever you can. It's much more delightful to be swimming in his personality or emotions, rather than intellectually knowing that he's flowing with power or love right now.

Like with God, we can flow in the essence of someone from the cloud of witnesses, too. For me it happens most easily with people I've built a relationship with. We can start to read their minds, being able to communicate without the use of words. That attachment has happened spontaneously for me as I connect with people more deeply.

In sum, it's fun to push beyond our five spiritual senses to flow with people on a much deeper level.

## TIPS FOR SEEING THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

We don't have time for a whole course on opening our spiritual senses. But I do want to share four general areas that will help open up clearer encounters with heaven.

**1) Tuning into someone's station**

If you realize that someone from heaven is beside you, how can you connect with them to have an interaction? Every being seems to have their own channel they're broadcasting on—like their own personal TV station. The trick to talking to someone from heaven is to tune into their station. There are a lot of ways to tune in more clearly to a broadcast signal. I'm going to share what helped me begin to pick up on heaven's stations.

What I do is focus my attention and spiritual senses on the spot where the person from heaven is standing. Then I stick with it for a couple minutes. It's tempting to want to quit after thirty seconds of sensing nothing. Try focusing your spiritual senses on the spot you think the person may be for at least two minutes. Many times I've told someone, "I'm getting a vague sense of a person standing here, but I'm sorry. I can't get into their flow." Then if I stick with it, a minute or two later something pops and a clear, sometimes life-changing encounter opens.

When I first tried to see angels years ago, I used that method. I'd stop and focus on the place where I thought I sensed an angel. I'd spend several minutes concentrating all my spiritual senses on the spot. Nothing would happen. But I kept doing it anyway—every time I thought I sensed an angel. Each minute we log using our spiritual senses—even if they don't report information back to us—develops those senses. Eventually, they figure out how to send you the information they're perceiving.

Amazingly, it seems to make a difference where you focus your senses. For example, my friend who can see energy often tells me, "There's someone standing right there." When she notices the energy pattern, I'll

focus my spiritual senses on the spot and see what I can discern. Once she was convinced she saw the energy of two spiritual beings right in front of me. I focused for a minute or two, but couldn't perceive anything.

"That's weird," I told her. "I can't sense anything." Then I decided to turn my attention a couple feet to the right. Suddenly, I could perceive the beings and we began interacting with them. When we narrow our focus on a particular spot, I guess it needs to be the exact spot where the heavenly being is.

If I get stuck, I look at the being slowly and deliberately—making a careful scan from their feet to their head. I try to pick up on as many details as I can. Then I look around them. If I can sense it, I see what the scene they're standing in looks like or what the atmosphere around them is emitting. I try to perceive whatever I can that's flowing from them. If you can't make out anything, just focus your senses on the spot in a hyper-vigilant way. Pretend you're Superman using his x-ray vision if that helps. You don't actually have to see anything for the concentrated focus to work. Often just the exercise of focusing your senses helps something come online.

Asking the person questions also helps me connect with them. For me, it can't be a general question like, "What do you want to tell me?" It has to be a more specific query that starts them thinking about a topic. (Asking questions probably works because the person responds to the question with a shift in their thoughts. It's easier to perceive movement than it is to perceive something standing still. When their thoughts move, it helps me to lock onto where their thoughts are coming from.)

## **2) Raising your frequency**

People from heaven are communicating at a higher frequency than we do on earth. Anything I can do to raise my frequency helps me hear them. That's one reason why inner healing helps us hear God better. It raises our frequency.

My friend who sees energy has told me about moments of pure joy she's experienced, where her whole being was flowing in absolute happiness. In a second of total joy, she's suddenly seen the place where she was standing as it looked 200 years before. Or she's had knowledge gained by her ancestors instantly become accessible to her. It seems like spiritual information is encoded at higher frequencies. When we operate from higher emotional frequencies, spiritual experience unlocks for us.

If you can't instantly bring yourself into pure joy, a fun, quick-fix to raising frequency is to use tuning forks. Originally designed to help musicians tune their instruments, tuning forks sound a perfect pitch. Just listening to certain frequencies can raise my mood and frequency, opening up more heavenly encounters.

I especially enjoy using angel tuning forks. They're set to a very high frequency. People using them must have noticed that hearing that sound opened up angelic encounters for them. So they named them "angel forks." On one level, our bodies are made of sound waves. Hearing a perfect pitch entrains lower frequencies to the higher one. At first I noticed a difference after sounding angel forks for twenty minutes. Eventually, playing them just a few times could help me tune into heaven.

### **3) Releasing more energy**

The more of our energy we can focus on an encounter with heaven, the more we can take away from it. For example, when we have an unresolved trauma, we're using some of our energy to keep the trauma at bay. Healing the trauma frees that energy to be used however we want to use it. So when we focus our attention on something in the spiritual realm, we're focusing more energy on it. Our encounters become more powerful because we're releasing more power into them. That's another reason why inner healing enables us to hear more clearly in the spiritual world. When you focus on inner healing or wholeness, you're not pursuing a side issue. Freeing our energy to be used how we choose to

use it (and not to keep ourselves patched up) is the key to mastering many spiritual skills.

#### 4) **Practicing**

For some people practice is like a magic pill. You'll dramatically improve your encounters simply by exercising your senses daily. Hebrews 5:14 says that we mature by constantly practicing with our spiritual senses. How can you practice all the time? Sometimes it's hard to go straight into a full-blown encounter with a person from heaven. So I took a two-pronged approach to practicing.

First, I practiced stepping into the atmosphere of heaven. I'd close my eyes, take a deep breath, and tell myself I was stepping into heaven. Then I'd see what the atmosphere felt like. Did I feel joy? Peace? Love? I wasn't trying to have an encounter with anyone. I was simply orienting myself to the feel of heaven.

After a month or so, I was comfortable enough in the atmosphere of heaven that I didn't have to be by myself in a quiet room to go there in my spirit. Anytime I remembered throughout the day, I'd step into heaven's atmosphere—when I was talking to someone or watching my kids' soccer games or driving my car. I'd breathe deeply and feel the peace or joy of the place. I let it raise my mood.

Second, I set aside additional time to practice engaging someone from heaven every day. At first I had to be in a quiet place by myself to be able to have a conversation with a heavenly being. After a few months of practice, though, I could be driving my car or doing the dishes or (half) listening to a lecture and have a heavenly encounter.

The important thing is to engage your spiritual senses—even if your senses aren't passing along the information they're gathering. Constant use buffs them up. It trains them. One day a block will clear and you'll begin to receive information from those senses. If you've been using them, you'll be ready to launch. For some people, you don't have a major block.

The main issue is simply that your spiritual senses have been underused. The daily practice alone can open up incredible encounters for you.

Third, I'd suggest practicing in the same room every day. Physical locations do carry the signature of what goes on there spiritually. Many people have noticed prayer rooms or worship rooms saturated with the spiritual atmosphere that's fostered there. We have a couple rooms in our house where we've opened portals to heaven about every two feet it seems. My kids call one spot the "bus stop" because there always seems to be a being there—a different one every night—who just hopped off the heavenly bus and is waiting for an interaction with us. Consistent tuning into heaven in one location will open up a flow of heaven to earth from that place. It becomes easier to see the spiritual realm because it's flowing more freely there.

#### WHY YOU *WILL* SEE SPIRITUALLY

Finally, we are all wired to perceive the entire spectrum of information. So why don't we all perfectly see? The way I understand it, any spiritual skill is a combination of who we believe we are, the openness of our inward channels, and how long we've spent practicing. That's why what works for one person doesn't always work for another. We're at different starting places with a different set of things working and not working in our vehicles. Stepping into any skill will, on one level, require work in all areas—wholeness inside us, opening up our inward flow so there are no blocks, and good, old-fashioned practice.

If you can't perceive something, there's nothing wrong with you. You are the same as everyone else. We're all built in God's image. The good news is you're wired to receive whatever you pursue. That's why Jesus promises that anything you ask for you will receive.

To leave you with an encouraging story, the difficulty perceiving seems to go both ways—at least with angels. Several times I've met angels who have difficulty seeing in the physical world. Easily, they can see someone's

spiritual condition. Perceiving the energy around the person isn't a problem for angels. But some of them struggle with discerning the lower frequencies of physical matter. Once an angel even apologized about it.

"I'm sorry," he told me. "I thought I'd be able to see better in the physical world by now. But I still have a hard time making out objects around the person I'm looking at."

"No problem," I assured him. "I know how it feels to want to see better than you do."

## **Seven Ways to Trigger an Encounter**

People from heaven can appear to us anytime—even when we aren't asking for it or wouldn't even want it (like they did with me at first). In one sense, there are always people from heaven standing all around us. Just like God and angels, all of heaven is always there. We just don't see it all the time. If I look with my spiritual eyes around my room, I usually see people from heaven standing there.

Although in theory we have access to anyone anytime, that isn't always our experience. I want to give a few ways to engage the cloud of witnesses, especially ways to engage a particular person that you want to speak with.

### **1. Picture yourself in a Bible story**

A great way to interact with someone who is in the Bible is to picture yourself in their Bible story. I'm writing a children's guide to the Bible. When I got as far as Joshua, I was learning about going into heaven. I had recently heard that we could picture ourselves in a Bible story and possibly interact with the characters there. I decided to try it.

I pictured myself standing right in front of Joshua as he was looking out at Jericho in Joshua 5:13. After pretending I was staring at Jericho with him for a couple minutes, I felt Joshua walk forward about ten

paces. He bent down, picked up some mud in his hand, turned towards me, and started talking. We had a fairly long chat. He offered insights about his life. I asked him questions.

“Do you know what the best moment of my life was?” he asked me. No matter how deeply I studied the Bible, I had no way to know what Joshua thought the best moment of his life was. Then he asked me, “Do you know what quality I needed more than anything else to fulfill God’s purpose for my life?” Again, I could make an educated guess, but I couldn’t really know from just the Bible text.

He’d ask me a question, then tell me and show me the answers—piecing together Bible passages in ways I had never thought to before. He was giving me insights about his life that only he knew. At the same time, he was unpacking a deeper meaning to the lessons in his book of the Bible. Towards the end, he talked to me about things he carried in his life (like leadership) that he thought I should know. He even gave me a couple items—including a stone from the middle of the Jordan River.

That was my first experience picturing myself in a Bible story. I hadn’t necessarily expected to start talking to the characters. But when it happened, I realized how valuable it was. Not only could I shape the book I was writing around the input Joshua gave me, but his comments gave me deeper insight into the scripture passages themselves. I decided to engage all the Old Testament stories I was summarizing.

Although I didn’t have time to picture myself in every Bible story, I tried to engage every significant story or person that I was including in the children’s guide to the Bible. Sometimes I’ve had just a brief encounter. But my talks with the cloud of witnesses opened my eyes to truth about the stories and the lives of the people that I wouldn’t have seen otherwise.

I also realized that even people who were wicked in the Bible have a very sanctified understanding of everything now. Heaven has changed them. For example, when I spoke to Athaliah (the evil queen who tried



to kill all of David's descendants), she said something like, "Leaders are supposed to do what's best for the people they're leading, not what's best for them. I did what I wanted to do, but that wasn't how I should have used my life."

There's no formula for picturing yourself in a story. Do it however you want. I'd usually read the Bible story I wanted to step into first so it would be fresh in my mind. If I wanted to engage a person like Jeremiah or Micah, I'd read their entire book quickly. Then I'd picture myself in the story and see what happens. Or I'd breath deeply, close my eyes, and try to connect with the essence of what I had picked up from reading the story. Other times I'd just think about a Bible story I knew from memory and picture myself in it.

Sometimes it has felt like I am part of the story—a non-central character. Sometimes it has felt like I am actually one of the characters. Sometimes I'm just there observing. Other times the person I'm trying to connect with will meet me and give me a tour of their town or house, showing me how they felt or what they encountered that caused them to write what they did. Each time I engaged through a Bible passage I have learned something valuable.

## **2. Immerse yourself in their teachings**

If the person is in the Bible, picturing yourself in their Bible story is a great way to connect to them. If they have written a book or preached messages, reading or immersing yourself in their teaching can prime your spirit for receiving from them.

I first noticed this principle when I was reading a book a Christian author wrote about his adventures in heaven. I had never met the person. I hadn't seen him on the internet or listened to a message of his. I honestly knew very little about him. After reading just one chapter of his book, I felt like there was part of him resting on the book. Through his writing I could sense the kind of person he was spiritually. As I thought about it, I found

myself in a place in heaven where some Christian writers were standing around. He was one of them. I had a brief interaction with his spirit. Later I met this man in person and spent considerable time with him. The interaction I had with his spirit in heaven proved to be an accurate picture of what he carried in the spirit.

The way I look at it is that we have a physical body, but that's not all of who we are. We also have an essence that the physical body carries. Our essence—our true nature—gets deposited into things we create. So when we write a book or produce music or give a lecture, part of our essence is deposited into our creation. When someone watches or listens to what we made, they are touching our essence that's in our work. Coming into contact with someone's essence can trigger an interaction with them in the spiritual world.

#### EXAMPLE

It's become rare for me to not have an encounter with someone in the spiritual realm if I engage their books or teachings. I've grown to expect it. After reading a few chapters of someone's book or watching a video of theirs on the internet, I've had some life-changing encounters with them. I seem to be engaging their spirit or true self. They don't hide anything from me. Often I can see what they look like in the spiritual world, so it's all visible anyway. Engaging people in that way has helped me sort through their true motives or what they're tapping into when their writings haven't made it totally clear to me.

For example, once I read the first part of a book written by a spiritual person outside of the religion I grew up in (Christianity). Although he had an amazing grasp on sacred geometry (the reason I picked up his book), I couldn't tell where he was sourcing his knowledge. For a couple nights, the man's spirit appeared to me, explaining some concepts in his book and offering to mentor me. When I looked at him in the encounter, I could see what was in his field or the spiritual atmosphere around his life. Tiny

shapes of sacred geometry floated around him. He really had mastered an understanding of the topic. Then I could see beings from all over the universe around him. These beings genuinely considered this man their friend. Finally, I noticed what we'd call demons or spirits outside of God's kingdom. This man accepted any spiritual being that came to him. That's why he had helped so many beings that many people would have rejected. They really considered him a friend. But that's also why he was receiving some input from beings I personally wouldn't have wanted to receive input from. The encounter enabled me to see what he was operating in spiritually.

His parting words to me were about the importance of the golden ratio. "Live your life by it," he suggested. I had no idea what that meant.

Amazingly, a couple weeks later I was on a call with a group of Christians from around the globe engaging heaven. The leader had just had an encounter with Noah, who had explained to her how he built the ark using the golden ratio. "That sequence is very important," Noah had emphasized. He was encouraging people to study it because it carried power. Two people in the cloud of witnesses—with very different backgrounds—were offering the same advice at the same time. Was there a heavenly memo?

#### SETTING IT UP DIFFERENTLY

One day a friend and I were chatting about how common these encounters are with someone when you read or listen to their stuff. I was telling her how it seemed that every person I had read or listened to in the last couple years I would encounter in the spiritual realm. Then I remembered an exception.

"Wait," I told her. "There's a woman whose stuff I've listened to for hours. But never once have I encountered her in the spiritual realm."

"I remember now," my friend told me. "I heard her say once that when she first started her ministry, she had so many people approaching her for help in the spiritual world that it became overwhelming. She set

things up so that no one could engage her spirit unless she specifically permitted it.”

That explained it. Once I had been wondering if I should buy more of her product. Often if I think about someone deeply, it can trigger an encounter with the person’s spirit. Instead, an angel appeared.

“I’m the head angel over the resources she offers,” the angel explained. “Do you have a question I can answer for you?”

I did ask the angel my questions and his responses were very helpful. When I thought about it later, I realized there was no need for the woman herself to engage me. Her angel did a fine job addressing my questions. I bet the reason I interacted with her angel rather than her spirit is because she set things up that way.

#### APPROACHING ME

So far I’ve had only one person’s spirit approach me asking for help in what I teach. I was in the middle of an encounter with God when someone’s spirit barged in, asking for my help in breaking into what I was doing with God. It was a bit weird to be on the other side of an encounter like that. After thinking about it a minute, I invited him into my encounter with God and we had a great time together. I enjoyed interacting with the guy, and I think I learned more than he did from the experience.

The weird thing about that encounter is the guy was asking me for help on a subject I haven’t taught on publicly yet. I’ve started prepping to teach on it, but God hasn’t OK’ed me talking about it publicly yet. So this man must have heard or read my teaching in the future and then gone back in time to ask for my help stepping into it.

(For what it’s worth, I have tried to set things up in my life so no one can interact with me in the spiritual realm unless my spirit OKs it. I figured I must have permitted that guy to enter into my private space.)

## WHY IT WORKS

Why does listening to or reading someone's material trigger an encounter with their spirit? First, as we mentioned earlier, there's some of who they are resting on their material. When we engage their material, we rub up against part of them. It's like we're bumping into them in the spiritual realm. They almost have to shut off our ability to connect with them through their material if they don't want us to encounter them.

Second, the more we immerse ourselves in someone's teachings, the more we are placing some of what they carry inside us. It becomes part of who we are. Have you ever read huge chunks of the Bible all at once? Doesn't it seem easier to connect with God after that? The longer and more often we put anything inside us, the more accessible the spirit behind it is to us. That spirit could be God (if it's the Bible) or the person who penned the teaching.

### **3. Talk, think, or wonder about them**

Just thinking about or having a conversation about a person from the cloud of witnesses can trigger a visit from them. In many ways, I prompted the visit from John Huss by talking to God about him. I had been thinking about Huss fairly deeply. But I've had visits from saints in heaven after only a casual, couple-minute conversation about them with someone.

Probably the visit that freaked me out the most happened because of a two-minute conversation I had. That morning, I was chatting with someone about the gospel writers. We were half-joking about something they had written. It was a casual, short conversation.

That night as I was hanging out with God, I did something I never do—I fell asleep while talking with God. (OK, maybe I do that too often.) Anyway, I had just barely dozed off. When I opened my eyes, a man was peering directly into my face—his nose one inch from mine! I almost

screamed. Briefly, I thought he had broken into my house and was about to assault me. Then I realized he was in the spiritual world. But he had scared me. And he continued to scare me. There was an intense power coming off of him that was frightening. I could almost hear it.

Suddenly, I realized there were three people from the cloud of witnesses standing behind me. They had been there the whole time I was praying, but I hadn't been able to see them. When they thought I was asleep, one of them bent his body around from behind me and was peering in my face to make sure I was asleep. Who knows that they would have done had I stayed asleep. (Maybe given me an impartation in a dream?)

When he realized how much he had freaked me out, I could almost hear the guy thinking, "Oops! I thought she was asleep."

I recognized that the man peering at me was Matthew. (The first gospel writer.) The hilarious thing is I recognized him because he looked exactly like the cartoon character our illustrator had drawn of Matthew for the kids' Bible book I'm writing. (I don't really understand why he looked like our cartoon character. But I've had Jesus appear to me looking like the cartoon character of Jesus in the book. Strange things can happen.) I was scared out of my wits by a living cartoon version of Matthew peering at me from an inch away!

## WHY IT WORKS

As best as I can tell, the encounter with Matthew happened because I had been talking about his writing earlier that day. Anytime we think about or talk about or wonder about someone from the cloud of witnesses, we are pushing into what they carry—the anointing and treasures that they've gathered to share with all of us. That act of leaning into what they possess can open it up to us. Maybe God will share something from their lives with us. Or maybe they will share it themselves. I've asked God a question about Paul, for example, and had Paul himself give me the answer.

When we realize that we are not inaccessible to each other, it doesn't seem so weird. Just like I can talk to someone I know on earth and ask them a question about what they've learned, I can ask someone in heaven. And I am asking them in a sense every time I think about or talk about their contribution. If you ask someone a question, if you press in and wonder about them, expect an answer! It would almost be rude to not respond to your desire.

#### **4. Ask or pursue speaking with someone**

Meeting with someone from the cloud of witnesses can be as simple as asking God to meet that person. Once I said, "God, I'd love to talk with so-and-so at some point." I expected to wait months or years to encounter the person. I was shocked when she showed up during my time with God that night!

##### MY OLD METHODS

There's no protocol that I've followed to request a meeting with someone. The first time I tried to connect with someone in heaven, I had no idea how to do it. So I just stepped into the middle of space and shouted, "I'd like to see so-and-so!" Within seconds she appeared. She was one of the first friends I made in heaven in the Friends of God room. (I've also used that method to meet with angels on earth. I've walked into a church and said, "I'd like to meet with..." and either said the angel's position or his name if I knew it. The few times I've done it, the angel has met with me. Maybe not right away, but eventually.)

That method didn't always work for me, though. Once when I was attempting to meet with William Branham again, I couldn't figure out how to do it. For days I had tried, but nothing had happened. Then I was on a group call with people practicing stepping into heaven—one of the first times I was ever on a call like that. We were standing in a beautiful heavenly scene with some people or angels there, too. I was so desperate to meet Branham, that I just grabbed one of the heavenly beings and said, "I'm trying to find William

Branham. Do you know where he is? Can you take me to him?”

Instantly, I was sucked into another place in heaven where Branham was. He was in a meeting behind a closed door. But he came out of the meeting to see me. “I’m in a meeting,” he told me. “I can’t talk now, but I can see you tomorrow afternoon.” He let me peek into his conference, then I realized I should get back to the group call.

Heaven is outside of time, so I think what was really going on is I needed to be on the group call. But I was able to talk to Branham briefly and create a way to connect with him the next day.

The following afternoon I remembered that he’d promised to meet with me. “I’m ready to talk now if you are,” I said in my mind. Then Branham was there at my house and we had a life-changing conversation.

#### MY CURRENT METHOD

Sometimes I do want to connect with a particular person in the cloud of witnesses. Instead of shouting my request out to the universe or grabbing a random heavenly being and begging them to escort me to the person, I have a new method. I just picture the person, intend to connect with them, and try to find their broadcast station. I turn my attention to them, create my intention to meet with them, then extend my spiritual awareness to pick up on their unique signal.

It’s not that the other methods are wrong or less effective. I’ve simply found it easier to think about the person, intending to meet with them. Anything that helps me tune into the spiritual world helps me find their TV station. All of heaven is available to us at any moment. Eventually, we all will be able to connect with anyone at will (within the parameters they set up for interacting with them).

## 5. Be in the Spirit

God opened an encounter for me with Isaiah once in an unexpected way. I wasn’t thinking about Isaiah. I didn’t particularly want to meet



with him. I wasn't asking for a meeting. I was just hanging out with God. I was in a season of my life where all I wanted to do was spend time with God—constantly. I was sitting in my car, waiting for my son to finish youth group, hanging out with God.

I was absorbed with thoughts of God—so absorbed that my brainwave state had begun to lower. I had probably moved into a deep alpha brainwave pattern, like someone in a light trance. Some people call this state being “in the Spirit.” To me it feels like not being able to think logically. I become more focused inwardly or on the spiritual world than I am on what's going on around me.

As I was sitting in the car, enjoying God in this state of mind, I realized I really needed to prepare a Bible study on Isaiah. I was supposed to be teaching about that book the following week. I turned my computer on, trying to pull myself back into a spot where I could focus on something other than God. At that moment God said to me, “Do you want to meet Isaiah?”

“Sure,” I replied. I figured, why not?

I had been so in the spirit that was a bit difficult to think logically when I started talking to Isaiah. I couldn't really come up with a good question. So I just asked, “What would you like to tell me?” We spoke for about half an hour and I learned some insightful things—including an entirely new perspective on his commissioning that made it more meaningful for me.

Another time I was hanging out in heaven with a group of people. Everyone else had to leave, but I decided to stay a little longer in the place where we were. Suddenly, I heard footsteps behind me. Mordecai (from the book of Esther in the Bible) was approaching me. He told me he had a personal investment in seeing the spiritual inheritance of the Jewish nation realized. He asked if I'd help him by fostering a love of Israel in the church.

“I've been given limited authority to begin the unification of Israel

and the church,” he revealed, excited. “I’m looking for people on earth to partner with in this endeavor.”

“Why me?” I asked him.

“I saw someone hanging out and talking to angels in heaven. I figured someone who’s comfortable doing that would be someone I could approach, too,” he answered.

Why had Mordecai approached me? Was I better suited to his purposes than someone else? Not really. Sure, I already had an interest in Israel and was teaching on it. But he appeared to me in part simply because I was hanging out in heaven.

“I’m not Jewish,” I told him. “I don’t feel qualified to speak officially about Jewish things.”

“I hereby qualify you,” he answered, briefly touching my shoulder.

From that moment on I never questioned my qualification to speak about “Jewish” topics. About a month after that encounter, I received an invitation to speak to a church about Passover. Guess what day they reached out to me? Mordecai’s holiday on the Jewish calendar. I love heavenly serendipities.

## WHY IT WORKS

Why did the encounters with Isaiah and Mordecai open up for me? Perhaps it was just because I was spending time with God. If you’re hanging out with a friend and they tell you they are going to write something about another friend of yours, would you offer to introduce them? You probably would. Just hanging out with God in the Spirit may open up chances to meet heavenly people that we wouldn’t otherwise think to meet with.

Another reason being in the spirit opens up heavenly encounters is because your brainwave state is more conducive to receiving communication from the spiritual realm. Medical science has documented four main brainwave patterns our brains emit the

majority of the time. They've labeled them Beta, Alpha, Theta, and Delta. (I think of it like BATHeD to remember the order.) When we're in beta (which we're in most of the time), we can think rationally. We pull most of our information from our physical senses. We're most focused on the physical world. As we progressively move to Delta, our thoughts become more creative and less rational. We pull most of our information from our inward experience and from the spiritual world. (Theta and Delta are patterns we enter during sleep.)

God designed our brains so that we can choose whether we want to focus on our physical existence or our spiritual existence. We do exist at both ends of the spectrum. We have different brain wave patterns to enable us to choose whether our physical or spiritual senses will take priority in what we can perceive at any given moment.

We can choose to lower our brainwave patterns to open ourselves up to spiritual encounters. Most people never learn this skill. They remain stuck in a stressed out beta state. If we practice lowering our brainwaves, then it's automatically easier to perceive in the spiritual world. That's why many people have a heaven encounter in a trance (which is just a lowered brainwave state). It's also why it's easiest to hear from God—and the cloud of witnesses—as you're falling asleep at night or waking up in the morning. As your brain crosses from Theta into Alpha, the information your spiritual senses are taking in becomes available to your conscious mind. A fun exercise is to focus on God as you fall asleep at night or wake up in the morning. Pay attention to the thoughts going through your head in those moments. Often much deeper encounters open up then.

On a related note, often between the hours of 2 am and 5 am, it's easier to have a heavenly encounter. The phenomenon has been noticed in different religious traditions around the world—from Christianity to eastern mysticism. Personally, I've had many cloud of witness encounters during those hours. If you wake up then, try focusing your spiritual

senses and see what you can perceive. Or relax, intending to connect with God, and see where it takes you.

## **6. Read or Hear Another Person's Encounter with that Person**

I was reading a book where the author wrote about some interactions he had with different people in the cloud of witnesses, including Ezekiel. Then I decided to spend some time just in God's presence in heaven. Although I was trying to focus on God, I could sense the "essence" of Ezekiel—his character, who he was, what he carried—in the place in the heavenlies I was. The book I was reading had carried some of Ezekiel's "essence" in how it described him and the interaction the author had had with him. As I was focusing on God, the "presence" or sense that Ezekiel was there became stronger and stronger. I could hear thoughts in my head that seemed to come from me. Then I realized someone was actually whispering those thoughts into my head. I sensed Ezekiel peering over me. As I focused on the whispers, they became louder. I was now hearing Ezekiel talking to me.

"You know me," he was saying, "I know your desire. You will get your desire."

Suddenly, I remembered how I had translated parts of Ezekiel's book from Hebrew myself years ago. I had spent at least a year on the translation. I really wanted to have the kind of interaction with God and the cherubim that Ezekiel had. I thought that by translating his words from the Hebrew myself, it could open up that experience for me. But it hadn't. Was he trying to tell me I'd get my desire for that kind of interaction with God that I had been seeking years ago?

"Come visit me and we can talk," I could hear him more clearly now. "I can teach you things. I can explain things and we can talk."

Then he had a personal message for me. And he left me with three things. (We'll discuss things you can receive from people in heaven in

the next section.)

The funny thing about this encounter was how it ended. As Ezekiel slowly walked away, I could hear someone else from heaven talking to him as they walked.

“You should have stayed longer,” the other person was telling Ezekiel. “You should have told her more.”

“But her heart was not ready to receive more, as you yourself can see,” Ezekiel said.

“But she could have received a little bit more,” the man said.

They continued to talk, analyzing their interaction with me and commenting on what I was going to do with it. Eventually, they had “walked” so far away that I couldn’t hear them anymore.

Why did I have that encounter? The book I was reading captured Ezekiel’s “essence”—who he is and what he carries in the Spirit. A person’s essence is almost like a spiritual substance in and of itself. When we focus on it, it can trigger an encounter with them in the spiritual realm.

## **7. Soak in Teaching about the Cloud of Witnesses**

Jesus said that what we ask for and seek, we will find. How we access things spiritually is to desire them, to pursue them, to honor them, to ask God for them. The more we do those things, the more they will open up to us. God desires to give every good gift to his children. When we pursue having encounters with the cloud of witnesses, it will begin to open up to us.

As I’ve been writing this book, I have been immersed in thinking about the cloud of witnesses on a deeper level. It’s no coincidence that I’ve had more frequent and meaningful encounters with people from heaven than I’ve had in the past. If you marinate yourself in teachings about the cloud of witnesses, you will be more likely to have encounters—or to take your encounters to the next level.

## TAKING IT DEEPER

Personally, my interactions with people from heaven started as brief, surface level conversations. Someone would appear, tell me a short message, then disappear. My encounters became longer and more meaningful as a few things happened.

First, my ability to perceive in the spiritual realm grew—in part from practicing by talking to angels and to people in heaven. As I began to see in the spirit better, I was able to have longer conversations and see more of what people from heaven were showing me. So the interactions impacted me on a deeper level.

Second, I shifted the primary place I was hanging out with God. For most of my life I had invited God to spend time with me as I worshipped him or prayed to him on earth. He would come down to me and we'd share sweet fellowship. Then I was hanging out with God once and he told me that I should come visit him in heaven. "Taking trips to heaven is the most important thing I'm releasing on earth right now," he explained. What's a trip to heaven? It's a short visit—going to see God in heaven without moving there permanently. So I shifted the primary place I'd hang out with God. Instead of asking him to meet me in my prayer closet, I'd "pretend" I was going to see him in heaven. Pretty soon I wasn't pretending. God began to show me around incredibly beautiful places—more beautiful than I'd ever imagined. Going to heaven drew me so much closer to God. It expanded my capacity to see and hear in the spiritual realm. And it hyper-jumped who from the cloud of witnesses I'd meet—and how deeply I could communicate with them.

Third, I had met other people who loved hanging out in the heavenlies. Practicing going to heaven with them opened up to me what they carried from God. I was meeting people from heaven I couldn't have met on my own. I was going to places in heaven my own walk with God couldn't have taken me.

Fourth, my relationship with God was growing deeper. As I let God into more of my heart, I could let the cloud of witnesses into my heart more deeply, too. Sometimes I would desire fellowship with them just like I'd crave time with God.

Finally, my desire and capacity to spend time hanging out in heaven was expanding. Instead of having a vision just when I was worshipping or praying, I started having visions a lot. Before long, I was craving to go to heaven. I felt like I couldn't spend more than a few hours on earth without wanting to step into heaven again. Eventually, I'd have to force myself to do something other than hang out with God.

You may start much farther along than I did. But wherever you begin—or wherever you are now—in meeting with people from heaven, you can take it deeper. Strengthening spiritual eyesight, connecting with similarly-minded people, going deeper with God, fostering a hunger for heaven—will all take the types of encounters you're having with the cloud of witnesses to the next level.





*Chapter Four*

# Seven Benefits of Meeting Someone from Heaven

Interacting with the cloud of witnesses can open up so many things for us. At first I didn't glean as much as I could from some encounters because I didn't understand what was going on in our interaction. I had no idea what to do with stuff people were giving me or what it meant.

In this chapter I share seven ways meeting with people from heaven can benefit us. We can't cover every possible interaction you could have and how to take more from it. By the end of the chapter, though, you should have a solid foundation for benefitting in deeper ways from your interaction with the cloud of witnesses.

## **1. Internal Transformation**

The reason an interaction with someone from heaven can transform us so quickly and powerfully is that they are spirit speaking to the spiritual part of us. Their words don't hit only our brains. They touch our subconscious. They move our souls. They activate our spirits. Let me give you a few quick examples.

At the end of an encounter with William Branham once, he told me, "I want to leave you with a taste of something before I go." Handing me a book he had written after he moved to heaven, he announced, "There is a chapter in it just for you."

I had the sense I was supposed to turn to the chapter and lick it. I

wasn't ready to digest the whole thing. I was just to get a taste of it. When I licked it, this incredible feeling filled me. I knew I was tasting a bit of his relationship with God. It was so close, so pleasurable, so intimate. It was just a taste, but I wanted that. I knew that is what I had to go after. I didn't realize someone could be that close to God and that it could feel so intensely awesome.

Tasting his book hit me on a different level than an earthly interaction would. No conversation with one of my friends could have filled me with that kind of full-body experience. No book or sermon or video series could have imparted that feeling inside of what it tasted like. Because Branham was speaking spirit to spirit, it opened up a new reality for me in a way only a direct contact with someone's spirit can.

#### SPEAKING TO OUR SPIRITS

I've had short conversations with people in heaven than have done more good than an hour-long inner healing session. Why is that? First, the person from heaven can read the "publicly available" information in the spiritual field around your body. That means they often know what's going on with you spiritually better than you do.

"Your biggest obstacle in drawing nearer to God right now is such-and-such," Branham told me. "Focus on that if you want to move faster spiritually."

How did he know? He had no problem seeing in the spiritual realm. So he could see my spiritual condition—even better than I could.

I've had conversations with saints where I've felt like I was in a professional counseling session. "Don't partner with fear," someone advised me once. "You're trying to have fear keep you from error. Let God be your protection." As soon as he said it, I realized that's what I had been doing. People from heaven can see what's going on spiritually. They love us. They want to help us. So it's a powerful combination.

Second, their words go straight into our spirits—like a conversation

with God does. Their advice isn't just truth our brains register that we have to process and then move into our hearts for it to really change us. Their words can transform us instantly because they cut right into the part of us that controls what we really think and feel about ourselves.

For example, someone asked me once, "Why do you feel inadequate? You already are everything that is worth being. You are totally adequate now." As soon as he spoke the words, I felt something shifting inside me. A feeling of inadequacy was falling off of me. The truth that I was fully adequate just how I am was birthed. I wasn't processing his words and then choosing to believe it. The reaction happened instantly. The person from heaven was able to change me on the inside just by speaking certain truths to me—just like God can.

I could tell myself a truth about my identity. I could have friends on earth give me all the scriptures for why it's true. But the information tends to go to my brain, not my heart. When people from heaven have spoken truth to me, it goes straight to my spirit. I can be instantly changed.

That's why conversations with people from heaven can be very effective in creating spiritual growth in our lives. The cloud of witnesses sees us perfectly in the spiritual realm. They speak to our minds and our spirits. That makes them tremendously effective at pushing us into all we're meant to be.

## 2. Receiving something

Receiving a gift from the cloud of witnesses can make an encounter even more life-changing. I suppose you could receive just about anything. But the things I've personally received or seen others receive tend to break down into a few categories. I want to explore each category because understanding what you received allows you to use it better. When saints in heaven first started handing me things, I often didn't know what it meant or what to do with it. So that you'll never have that problem, we're going to explore four common categories of things you can receive.

## A GIFT FROM THEIR LIFE

This category may be the most common thing to receive. Although a saint could give you just about anything, I want to cover some of the most common gifts.

### **Mantles**

I was in a prayer meeting where we were sending a couple off for mission work. During worship, I noticed a man from the cloud of witnesses standing in the back of the room. Jesus told me, “He is the grandfather of the man they will commission tonight. He’s here to give him a mantle.”

As people were praying, I saw the grandfather place the mantle on him. I said something about it out loud. Immediately another man started praying for the “mantle of humility” to rest on him.

Afterwards the man being prayed for told me he believed his grandfather carried a mantle of humility. He had been asking God to give him that mantle. He was so touched to have received it.

Mantles can stand for a spiritual trait like humility. Usually, however, mantles carry part of the anointing or authority of the person for a particular call of God. Elijah left his mantle for the person he was mentoring, Elisha. When Elisha picked up the mantle, the anointing and authority to walk in Elijah’s position on earth was given to him. If a saint from heaven tells you, “I’m giving you part of my mantle,” it means they want you to finish their call from God. They want to sow into your life, depositing some of the spiritual power and treasures they earned into you. They believe in you and think you can help finish their mandate.

### **Jewelry**

We can receive jewelry from God, from a person in heaven, or even from an angel.

While I was talking with Jesus one night, he told me, “I want you to meet someone who writes for me.”

Immediately it felt like there was a man sitting next to me in a comfortable chair with a table nearby. I could almost see a fireplace with a fire burning in it in the background. The intimacy he had with God as he wrote was evident. (He was a famous author who lived about 100 years ago.) We had a great conversation, and then he handed me a locket.

“This won’t mean anything to you now,” he said, “but it will later.”

In the Bible and the spiritual realm, jewelry is very significant. It can show the person’s affection to us or connection with us (Song of Sol. 1:11). It can be like a family heirloom, representing a generational skill that is being passed to us. It can commemorate a special time or event with that person. Often the jewelry will hold a truth we realized through that event. When we put the jewelry on later, we can wear that truth in our lives.

Jewelry can also create a bond or forge a formal relationship between us and the person who gave it to us (Gen. 24:22). Think about your own wedding or engagement. Usually, we showed the world our official change in status by wearing a new piece of jewelry. In the spiritual world jewelry also can signify a change in our status—usually to rulership (Gen. 41:42; Eze. 16:11-13; Esth. 8:2; Luke 15:22). Every time God increases your spiritual authority, there could be a piece of jewelry associated with that promotion. Jewelry can also give us access to people in heaven (Song of Sol. 4:9). It can give us access to places in heaven because of who it identifies us with or the status that the jewelry indicates we have (Eze. 16:11-13).

Building a heavenly wardrobe—including its jewelry—can be a lot of fun. This is for men and women, by the way. A lot of the scripture passages involve men receiving jewelry to show a rulership position they stepped into. Jewelry can literally change your status, access, and abilities in heaven.

### **Mementos from their lives on earth**

People in heaven can offer you a memento from an accomplishment or event from their life on earth. For example, Joshua gave me a rock from

the middle of the Jordan River—from the spot where he miraculously led people across on dry ground. It's like he was saying, "I want you to share in one of my greatest victories. I want you to share the joy of that accomplishment. I also want to inspire you to do the same sort of thing with your life. Cross over into the next thing God has. You can do what I did." The memento is not just a reminder of a past victory. It becomes an impartation of the vision and ability to do the same thing with our lives.

## **Books**

People in heaven often give books. Usually, the books represent knowledge they've gained on earth or in heaven. When I first started receiving books or documents, I thought I was supposed to read them right then and there. I'd look down at it and if I couldn't decipher the message, I'd get frustrated. "I can't read what this says," I'd sometimes complain to whoever handed it to me. Or I'd waste time trying to focus on the document to read it.

Then someone told me that you don't have to read or understand the document when you receive it. You can just put it in your stomach. Sometimes people feel like they should eat it, digesting it more slowly. As I mentioned earlier, I thought I was supposed to lick a book given to me. The point isn't for our brains to understand the message. It's to take it into our spirits. When the time is right, the knowledge in the book will be accessible to us.

The first time I saw this principle work was in an interaction with J.S. Bach that I describe in a few pages. When he handed me a book he had written after going to heaven, I looked at the cover.

"I can't see the title," I complained. I was thinking, "How can I read this book if I can't even read the title?"

"Just put the book inside you," he instructed.

When I did, one or two pages from the book immediately popped into my mind. The pages had no words. They were just beautiful scenes.

I realized Bach had painted a picture book. By putting the book within me, its contents were available to my spirit.

Receiving a picture book someone painted is a bit unusual. Most of the time books represent insight or knowledge the person gained. Instead of having a long conversation to explain everything to you, they hand you a book. It's like saying, "I want you to understand this truth about God that I learned. Put it inside your spirit. Then when you need it, you'll be able to access it. Or it will be there to influence your thinking."

### **Other common gifts**

You can receive just about anything. Other common things I've seen the cloud of witnesses offer include pens (representing a writing anointing) and swords (representing strength or an understanding of the word of God). When we accept things from saints in heaven, it creates an official connection between us that we can draw on later. It also gives us an impartation of whatever the object stands for. It's like an inheritance. Our spiritual relative is giving us part of what they gained. They are passing it on to us so we can use it in our generation.

Thankfully, the saints in heaven can give their treasures to more than one person. Just because someone else received part of Moses' mantle, for example, doesn't mean we can't, too. It's OK to ask God and ask them for what they had. People do it all the time when they pray, "I want to be like so-and-so in the Bible." When we desire to be like them, we're really asking for their gifting or accomplishments or intimacy with God to be opened up for us. God may answer that prayer by giving us an encounter with that person where they give us something from their lives. All it means is God is answering our request to walk with him like they did.

### **TOKENS**

I've never heard anyone else talking about tokens, but they are something I've received. So I'll share about it in case you find yourself

receiving a token, too. Although there are different types of tokens, I want to unpack what may be the most common type—what I call access tokens. They give you access to people and places in heaven.

The first time I received tokens from people in heaven, I was hanging out with God when people dressed like kings crowded around me in the spiritual realm. They were each handing me a token, vying with each other to be in a better position to hand me their token. Realizing I couldn't take a token from all of them, each king was trying to ensure I took his.

“What in the world is this?” I asked God. They were kings and rulers in heaven, God showed me. Each had been given a kingdom and authority over a different place in heaven. By handing me a token from their kingdom, these kings of heaven were inviting me to come to their realms and meet with them. The tokens were official permission to interact with their government. They were also a portal to the exact GPS destination of the kingdom. The tokens were a way to jump directly to a particular person or kingdom in heaven.

I didn't do anything with the tokens for about six months. Then God told me to use a token. Selecting one at random, I pictured myself lifting it up. In my mind I declared, “I'd like to visit the realm of this king in heaven.”

Immediately, I was in that king's realm. We had a fun encounter that I shared earlier in the book.

It's not only rulers in heaven who have their own tokens. Individuals can have tokens, too. The first time I met with Ezekiel, for example, I found a token resting in my lap (in the spiritual realm) after the encounter. I knew it was his way of saying, “Come meet with me anytime. Here's a way to find me.” The next time I wanted to meet with Ezekiel, I had no problem connecting with him. Access tokens jump us straight to an encounter in heaven with the person or kingdom who gave us the token.

If someone hands you a token, it could be that they're giving you official access to their government in heaven. They could be giving you a



way to jump directly to an encounter with them in the future. Sometimes they could hand you a token as a sign that you met with them. When my husband has returned from official visits to the governments of other nations, sometimes he'll bring back a token. The hosting nation forged a special token to commemorate and honor the visit. People and governments in heaven can do the same thing. The tokens are visible in the spiritual world. Anyone can see the token and realize that you met with a particular person. Tokens can authenticate your visit with someone.

#### FOOD AND DRINK

Sometimes people from heaven have offered me something to eat or drink. There are three main things that happen when we eat or drink with someone from heaven. First, eating their food or drinking their beverages takes from what is in them and deposits it in us. Their food and drink can represent what their life has produced—the spiritual food that is crafted from who they are. Eating it moves it inside you. It takes the processed, finished product of what was grown and harvested in their life and deposits it into you.

Second, psychologists have discovered that when we eat the same food with another person, it creates a bond between us. We are faster to come to agreements with them and more likely to work together. Eating and drinking with someone in the spiritual realm does something similar to our spirits. It aligns our spirits with theirs and makes it easier to partner with them.

Third, eating someone's food helps us understand what they're saying to us better. I had an encounter with a spiritual being once who started talking to me about complex things that I didn't understand. We were sitting in his house, a small table between us. Some tea, juice, and cookies were spread out on the table.

Every time the angel realized that I didn't understand what he was saying, he'd suggest, "Why don't you have another biscuit?" or he'd say,

“Have some more tea.” By half way through our conversation, I had drunk several cups of tea, a glass of orange juice, and I had eaten an entire package of tea biscuits.

Each time I ate his food, I could feel my spirit opening to a deeper understanding of what he was saying. The principle he had just been talking about made a little more sense to me. The food and drink had helped to align my spirit with what he was teaching.

A friend of mine says every time she meets with a certain spiritual being, the encounter starts out with the heavenly being handing her food. “Here, eat this cookie,” is how most of their encounters start. The being wants to align her spirit from the very beginning with what heaven wants to impart to her.

Pay attention to what type of food you’re offered. Even that detail is symbolic. For example, desserts usually stand for “sweet things” or teachings that you want more of because they taste so good. Meat or main courses can stand for teaching that really nourishes your spirit. Once a spiritual being served me a Greek dessert (and then gave me the recipe for it). I thought it symbolized a teaching that came from the Greek or original text of scripture that would be sweet to taste.

Eating a wide variety of food carries meaning, too. The first time I visited the house of one of my main angels, for example, he served me a wide range of dishes. Immediately, I knew he was opening up every part of who he was to me. Our relationship wouldn’t be limited to knowing a certain part of him or working on a particular type of teaching together. He was giving me access to all of who he was. Dishing out a variety of food meant he was serving me every part of what he’d learned and who he’d become.

## **Wine**

On earth I don’t really drink wine that often—hardly ever. But in heaven I drink it all the time. Wine in heaven is made from the pressing down of a person (or spiritual being’s) life. It’s like a concentrated version

of who they are. Drinking just a bit of it puts inside of you what is inside of them. Wine can also mix with teachings you're digesting to speed up the process of understanding it into your spirit.

A person in heaven once gave me a grape to eat. Wine is made from grapes. So eating his grapes was like taking into myself a raw or unprocessed version of what his life holds. It was like he was saying, "I want you to partake from my life. But I want you to know me from the very beginning of what my life produced. I want you to have the raw materials of my life. Shape them into your own version of what these things can produce."

### **Potions and Gardens**

At times people will offer me what they call a "potion" or formula that they've been working on to help people on earth. Some saints in heaven spend a lot of time crafting these "potions" or spiritual medicine to unlock things they have walked in for people on earth. For example, every time I saw Ezekiel for a season, he'd show me a "potion" he was working on to help people on earth have dreams, visions, and encounters with God like he did. Each time I saw him had tweaked his formula a bit. "Do you want to try this one?" he'd ask. Eagerly, I'd drink every drop.

Ezekiel also showed me his garden once where he grew vegetables that (to me) symbolized things that he had grown in his own life on earth.

"See this asparagus?" he asked. "Do you know what it stands for? Strong back bone. Don't give in. Don't let people's criticism get to you. People won't like what you have to say at the time because it won't line up with who they are. But don't let their words bother you."

He showed me another plant in his garden, explaining what it stood for. "Take a taste and a little of each vegetable," Ezekiel continued. "Then plant some in the garden of your own heart."

Ezekiel wanted to give me what he had grown in his life. Instead of receiving it as a gift or as part of a cooked dish, he was giving it to me in

a way that I could grow it in my life.

“If you can take more,” Ezekiel told me in that encounter, “there’s a little bit of knowledge in my house. Come inside and eat a bite.”

In his house I drank a special soup made with a broth that could bring healing. It was delicious.

“You’re a master chef,” I told him. “Could you teach me how to cook—how to put together ingredients to bring healing and spiritual strength to people?”

“A little knowledge goes a long way. You will learn in time,” he replied.

Then he handed me a recipe book. Recipe books impart knowledge about how to mix ingredients together to create something that will feed people’s spirits. I had received recipe books from others in heaven. Each one is special. But this recipe book had a unique significance to me because of how it was presented. “This is a family heirloom that’s been passed down in my family for generations,” Ezekiel explained. “I consider you spiritually connected to my family. So I’m giving you a copy.”

There is no way I’m actually related by human DNA to Ezekiel. What he was saying is that our spirits are similar. It’s like we’re part of the same family spiritually. In heaven we can receive heirlooms from people we are related to through our bodies—and people we are related to through our spirits. Talk about having a double inheritance!

After having several encounters in Ezekiel’s kitchen where he was sharing recipes, I had an interesting experience on earth. My ministry usually filmed our TV episodes in a certain studio. When that space was booked, we decided to film on the kitchen set. To go along with the background, we explained we were in the kitchen to share a “recipe” for how to have visions (the topic of the episode). About a week before our film date, Ezekiel appeared to me again. He wanted to share his own recipe for visions.

I had seen the “potions” or formulas he was working on in heaven to help people on earth see God like he did. I had been in his kitchen. I had

received one of his recipe books. Finally, he shared a three-ingredient recipe with me for how to have a vision. I totally loved standing on the kitchen set, sharing on TV Ezekiel's own recipe for having visions. Filming in the kitchen seemed fitting.

Eating and drinking food in the spiritual realm helps align our spirits with the person giving us the food. It can help us understand what they're saying to us better. In addition to eating "regular" food, we can also drink formulas that help impart something from their life to ours. Or we can take seeds from their life to grow some of what they had in our lives. We can also receive "recipe books" or knowledge of how to mix ingredients together to create something that will feed and delight others.

## INVENTIONS

Just like Ezekiel is working on formulas to help people on earth walk with God like he did, other saints are working on what I call inventions. I've seen inventions that help heaven and earth communicate better, that help release heaven's knowledge to earth, that distribute God's glory on the earth, among others.

I call them inventions because in the encounters they look like something a scientist would invent—from a megaphone to a high tech airplane to special formulas. The imagery is symbolic, meant to show us the intent of what heaven is crafting.

A couple times I've gone into heavenly "research labs" where saints were working to create something new. Sometimes the invention was for heaven or for the universe. Other times the invention was to help people on earth step into a higher level of spiritual truth. When a person from heaven hands you an invention, it gives you a personal impartation of that truth plus a way to help others come into it, too. You weren't just given a non-tangible anointing. You were handed an object. The object symbolizes a real tool that you now possess that can help others.

At first I observed other people or beings working on spiritual

inventions. Once I was asked to join the research team of a group attempting to rebuild the human DNA code to unlock LIFE (including eternal life). I'm sure there are many groups in the spiritual world working on the task from different angles. The particular group that approached me had mostly beings (not people) in it. But the project was being facilitated by a person. The beings were the first to invite me to join them. When the person heard about the invite, he extended an offer to me, too, in the spiritual realm. (The person is alive on earth now, so I encountered him spirit to spirit.) His group's work focused on the role sound plays in DNA.

One thing I learned from those encounters is people in the spiritual realm have an easier time impacting the earth if they can work with someone alive on earth now. The research was being conducted in the spiritual realm. But it was being implemented on earth through a person or ministry. That's why people and beings in heaven are eager to work with us. If they can impart their knowledge to us, it's much easier for them to change the earth (or humanity).

Receiving something from a person in heaven is a real treasure. Whether it's a gift from their life, a token, something to eat or drink, or an invention they've crafted in heaven, what they have to offer gives us something real. Their gifts open access, give us abilities, explain spiritual truths to us, and encourage us to become and do all that we're meant to.

### **3. Impartation**

Receiving a gift from someone in heaven can carry an impartation with it. But sometimes people from heaven will impart to us without giving us an object. Probably the first impartation I received from the cloud of witnesses was during one of my early visits to the Friends of God area in heaven. There I met an amazing woman. The love and glory of God radiated out from her. When I asked her what her name was, she just said, "I'm a saint in one of your books on earth." Because she

wouldn't tell me her name, I started calling her "St. Somebody." (Over time we became friends. It took two years for her to tell me what her name was, though—Catherine of Siena.)

"Oh my!" she exclaimed in shock when she looked at me for the first time. "This one can barely hear!" Then she peered into my eyes, "But she can see in the spiritual realm in a way that's going to bless many people."

"You have that backwards," I tried to correct her. "I can hear everything you're saying. But I can barely see you."

Immediately, she put her hands on my ears and then on my eyes. She was imparting an ability to see and hear better in the spirit. As soon as she removed her hands from my eyes, I could see her more as she really was. Her skin was almost see-through and made of tiny jewels. The glory radiating out from her looked brighter. A few seconds later, the vision faded again.

"You need to practice listening thirty minutes every day," she advised.

I loved her approach. It was like she was saying, "I'm going to impart something to you from my life. You'll do more with it if you grow it inside you. So practice listening and looking in the spiritual realm."

I took her advice to heart. I did start practicing (at least) thirty minutes a day. It took time, but my investment paid off. I still don't see or hear as clearly as I'd like to. But I am having daily encounters in heaven that I never could have had when St. Somebody prayed for me.

You can receive an impartation of just about anything. Impartations can propel our spiritual growth. Just like the impartation from St. Somebody, when we nurture what was given to us, we will take it farther.

## **4. Increased understanding**

Some saints will impart knowledge of heaven to you. But everyone I've met with has increased my understanding of heaven—whether they intended to or not. Just talking to them raises my spiritual IQ because it reveals more of how heaven works to me.

For example, I was taking a walk once and talking with God. Suddenly, I noticed a young man was walking beside me in the spiritual realm. I knew he was from the cloud of witnesses.

“What’s your name?” I asked.

“Johannes Sebastian Bach,” he replied.

I was intrigued. We started talking. He told me he still composed music in heaven. “God has given me my own studio. Do you want to see it?” he asked.

Of course I did. When he took me there I noticed two rooms. The room we were in looked like a sound booth or a control room. There were angels sitting in different seats. Each angel was monitoring the impact of Bach’s music on earth in different centuries. One was working this century. One last century, and so on. But they were doing more than monitoring. I realized they were somehow influencing the earth through how his music was released. The other room was a private recording studio attached to the sound booth room.

Bach recorded in the studio. But other people could come up there and record their music or hear what heaven was releasing. “Having this recording studio was my idea,” I thought he said.

That interaction taught me a lot of things. It was probably the first time I saw how heaven really is outside of time. Angels could be working in different centuries from the same control booth. I realized that people often continue doing what they were doing on earth in heaven. In Bach’s case, he is still composing music. I saw how we can have ideas about what we want to do in heaven, and God gives us permission to do it.

I also realized that the saints in heaven care about us. They are for us. At the time I met Bach, the ministry was about to release our first music CD. I thought the CD wasn’t a big deal. It was just songs that went with the Bible lessons in our kids’ curriculum. But heaven was more excited about the CD than I was. God sent Bach—or Bach decided to come—to encourage me and share some inspiration with me. Amazing.



Almost every time I talk to someone from heaven I learn more about how heaven operates. To me, it would be worth pursuing conversations with people in heaven just to learn more about heaven itself.

## 5. Access to other parts of heaven

Sometimes people from heaven will take you somewhere or show you something you couldn't have seen without them. The first time I met Enoch he did that.

I was investigating a “mystery” of heaven and about to call it quits. Just as I was about to throw the entire idea away, Enoch approached me. Secretly, I had been wanting to meet with him for a long time. Because I had such a strong desire to talk to him, I perked up.

“Come with me,” he offered. “I’m going to take you to one of my houses. I have many houses in heaven. This is my most public one. I want you to look up something in the records that are stored there.”

He led me to a majestic building that looked as much like a public records building as it did a stately mansion. Heading straight for a room with a bunch of scrolls, he chose one from a cubical where it was stored.

“Here is a record of every event that happens in human history,” Enoch announced as he rolled out an enormous scroll onto an equally enormous table. “I want you to tell me where you see the mystery you were investigating being unlocked in human history,” he directed.

“It would be in the end times,” I thought out loud as I moved towards the end of the scroll. Scanning the events from my time to the end, I didn't see that mystery unlocked. “It's not here,” I sighed. “It's not part of human history. I was right to abandon that mystery.”

“Look again,” Enoch suggested.

Then I noticed something else on the timeline. “God wanted it unlocked—right here,” I realized. “He intended for it to be understood and entered into. But nobody ever did.” I paused. “Are you trying to tell me that if I give up hunting this mystery, it's not going to be unlocked—

at least not for a very long time?”

Being able to look at the public records surrounding a mystery of heaven I was investigating caused me to change my mind about it. Those records exist in heaven. In theory, I could have asked to see them. But I didn't even know about them—or how to access them. Because Enoch approached me at just the right moment and gave me access to something I couldn't have known about or seen otherwise, he influenced my decision to continue pursuing that mystery.

When we're with a person from heaven, they can give us access to scrolls, places, people, even entire areas of heaven that would have been locked to us otherwise. Who you know in heaven is far more important than what you know.

## 6. Insight into God

One of the best questions we can ask a mentor or a spiritual mother or father from heaven is, “What are you learning about God? What new revelation of him are you receiving?” Throughout eternity one of our greatest treasures will be the depths of God and ourselves that we will discover and understand and hold in our hearts.

One of the first times I met with Ezekiel, I asked him what he was learning about God. His reaction surprised me.

“I can't believe she's asking me that question,” I could hear him thinking. “She's already wanting to pull from what I know of him.”

Although he didn't respond to my question then, the next time I saw Ezekiel he had an answer.

Handing me a document, he told me, “I've been overwhelmed by his goodness.” Unlike other encounters where I just put the document in my heart, I glanced at the page and noticed I could read it. He had written a poem describing an encounter he had with God in heaven that had totally undone him.

“It was so beautiful, Katharine, that I couldn't put it into words. But

you asked me what I've learned about him recently," Ezekiel explained, "so I want to share that with you."

I read and re-read the poem for weeks. It moved me deeply, and opened up a sweeter understanding of God for me. It also encouraged me to seek the same type of interaction with God that Ezekiel had.

Many people in heaven see parts of God more clearly than we do. They do know things about him we haven't figured out yet. Pulling on their knowledge of him is an incredible way to draw closer to God. It can move us farther and faster than relying completely on what people on earth can reveal to us.

## 7. Full wisdom and counsel

There are a lot of ways the cloud of witnesses helps up access the full wisdom and counsel of heaven. Here are a few.

### “OFFICIAL” ADVICE

We've talked about the official input from committees and councils. I've come to value this advice dearly. It's comforting to know that God has officially set up heaven so no one is left without guidance. We all have important tasks. Heaven is eager to advise us about them.

### “UNOFFICIAL” ADVICE

I've also received valuable input from regular people in heaven. They're not speaking to me from a committee they're on or in any official capacity. They are just paying attention to my life—like every detail of it—and offering advice when they can.

For example, once I was trying to decide if I should do a fast for something. I don't remember what it was that I was thinking of fasting for, but it wasn't anything life-changing. I hadn't talked to anyone about my decision. It was just something I was thinking about in my head. As I was worshipping later, a scene spread out in my mind. I could see a grand

hallway. I was walking down the center of the hallway towards God. On either side were people dressed in royal clothes made of bright colors. I realized it was some of the royal families in Israel—kings, queen, and children. Suddenly, one of the kings stepped forward. I knew he was a righteous king from ancient Judah, but I couldn't tell which king it was.

“Every time I made a sacrifice for God, it was worth it because He is worthy,” the king told me. “I never regretted any of my sacrifices.”

I knew he was speaking into my decision on whether to sacrifice something for a fast. His input certainly swayed my decision about whether to fast that time. It also helped me make a lot of other decisions about giving something up for God. His comment also made me realize that all of heaven can watch every detail of our lives—and minds. I wasn't thinking long and hard about that decision. It was so minor I hadn't even mentioned it to anyone. Yet there was someone from the cloud of witnesses—reading my mind—and wanting to help me make a wise choice in a minor decision. Even though the decision seemed small, it triggered the attention of someone from heaven because it related to my spiritual growth. That topic interests heaven. I'm not sure the king would have been eager to share his opinion on what brand milk to buy—unless, of course, there was a principle I could glean from it.

Sometimes heaven will give us input into the smallest details of our lives. Other times a person from heaven will share big picture advice we may not be aware of. To me it seems like receiving prophetic guidance or wisdom from God. For example, once I was talking with Ezekiel when he told me to share a message. “Tell people that there's an intersection in time coming up,” he directed. “At this intersection people can decide to jump forward in time by a great amount—or to stay where they are, moving at their current rate through time.”

My impression was that the shift would be in whether time governs how long it takes you to do something. Some people would be able to move quickly through time—get things done faster. Or maybe some

people would operate outside of time altogether. Others would remain in time as we know it now, where it takes a certain amount of time to accomplish something.

“The gap between those who leap ahead and those who move at the current pace will grow larger,” Ezekiel continued. “For those who chose to leap forward, there will be huge advancements—in medicine, technology, and theology. What would have taken centuries or much longer, they will achieve quickly.”

Every time I hear that word, something inside me wakes up. I want to be one of the people who leap ahead and I release that to all of us right now. Taking a step back from the message, though, doesn't it sound like something God would share? I've wondered how many prophetic words I've received over the years were actually delivered by the cloud of witnesses. It's no accident that Ezekiel shared that message, by the way. People tend to speak about the things that they're working on or invested in or have authority over in heaven. It wouldn't surprise me if Ezekiel is working on helping humanity govern time.

#### ADVICE ABOUT THE FUTURE

The cloud of witnesses stands outside of time. They can see our personal future as well as the future events of all humanity. At times they've told me something God is about to do on earth. Other times they've given me advice on how to handle things that are coming in my life in the future. To me it has seemed like their advice and predictions are no different than when God or an angel tells me about the future. But it is precious to know that other people are connected to my life—and are excited about it.

One day a new group of friends from heaven gathered around me. “We have good news to share with you!” they announced. Huge smiles filled their faces. Excitement bubbled off of them. “You got a promotion!”

I had no idea what they meant and they wouldn't explain it further.

Asking God about it later, he said the news dealt with something he was going to open up to me the following year. God could have told me, “Next year you’re going to be given permission to do such-and-such.” But it was way more fun to feel the excitement a group of friends in heaven had over the news. It gave me a sense that we really are sharing our lives together with people in heaven.

#### NOSE-BLEEDER ADVICE

There are people in the cloud of witnesses I’ve nicknamed the nose-bleeders. In a stadium, the upper levels are often called the “nosebleed” sections because (jokingly) you’re up so high that your nose may bleed from the altitude.

I used to think of the cloud of witnesses as sitting in a stadium around a track or football field. The people on earth were “playing” the game and the people in the cloud of witnesses were watching. Now I realize that the action is happening in both heaven and earth—and no one is passively watching the events. We all have a part to play. But the term nose-bleeder was stuck in my mind.

Most of the people from heaven I’ve interacted with have come up right beside me to talk. But there are people who haven’t done that. They’ve stood far away. It’s almost like they’re in the upper, nose-bleed sections of the stadium. Sometimes I’ve heard them shouting their advice to me. They’re not rude. It just seems like they don’t have access to come up and walk right beside me. But they do have permission to give me their input.

“I don’t like the such-and-such section of your children’s book!” one would shout. Or “That’s not the best way to do that thing!”

At first I thought they were being rude because most of the comments were about things they didn’t like. I wanted to ignore them. Then I thought if these are people in heaven, they are not trying to be mean. They are trying to help me. So I started thinking through their comments. I realized they were usually (maybe almost always) right.

Sometimes I would shout back to them, “How would you do it then?”

I was amazed at the wisdom their responses contained. I started to welcome their input, hoping that they’d shout to me more often.

Sometimes the nose-bleeders shouted positive comments. And sometimes they shouted advice about how to draw closer to God. I could tell they were following my life and wanted to be helpful. For some reason they just didn’t have permission or access to come stand right beside me. My guess is there are people in heaven who are super close to God. And there are people in what the Bible calls the “outer darkness” or the places farther from God (Matt. 8:12 (describing where some people in heaven who tried to gain access to a certain banquet would be thrown); Matt. 22:11 (describing where people in heaven who tried to attend a wedding feast without proper clothes would be thrown) Matt. 25:30 (describing where God casts his lazy servants)). Although I haven’t heard anyone shouting at me from afar in a couple years, I came to appreciate the comments from people far away from God as much as from those closest to him.

It’s not just people like St. Teresa who can bless us. People who didn’t have much to offer others on earth can be full of wisdom in heaven. They’ve been transformed by heaven. Even if they’re not sitting at God’s right and left hand yet, they can still have abundant wisdom to share. In fact, all the insights we gain on earth and the things we discover in heaven aren’t meant only for our lives or our time. They are meant to be shared with everyone—in all of history. As we draw on the cloud of witnesses, together we can possess the full counsel of God.

#### GREATEST THING

The best part of interacting with people from heaven isn’t what they can give you. It’s not how their advice or impartation can transform your life. You will change from interacting with them. But that’s not the best part. The greatest thing about meeting with the cloud of witnesses is that you begin to realize that you are connected to them. You actually

don't exist apart from them. It's like trying to split the Trinity. Yes, you can interact with each member of the Trinity separately. You can have individual relationships with each of them—on one level. But in the end, they are a Oneness that cannot be separated. We are meant to have that same oneness with the cloud of witnesses—with all people throughout all of time.

The greatest thing about interacting with the cloud of witnesses is coming into more of that oneness. The longer we hang out with people in heaven, the more we become a unity with them. There is a satisfaction, a bliss, that's released into our lives when we mingle our spirits with theirs. What starts as a conversation can lead to a relationship. What becomes a relationship can lead to a joining of our spirits with theirs.

It's a beautiful, amazing thing to fellowship with them in a way that you start to feel connected to them. You start to be able to sense what they're feeling or know what they're thinking. There's a point where you don't want to be separated from them—in the same way you don't want to be separated from God once you start to be found in him. I haven't unlocked the oneness we can have with the cloud of witnesses as fully as our oneness with God, but I've tasted it.

Our ultimate destiny with the cloud of witnesses is not to be best friends with everyone. It's to be something much deeper than that. Jesus prayed that believers “may be one just as we are one—I in them and you in me—that they may be completely one” (John 17:22-23 NET). Just as Jesus and the Father are one, we will be one with every person in the cloud of witnesses. That is our destiny. Beginning to taste that unity is the best part of interacting with them now.



# Conclusion

People from heaven push us closer to God. Their friendships enrich us. Their advice makes us wiser. Perhaps more than anything else, the cloud of witnesses testifies that all of heaven is for us. They are cheering us on, wanting us to succeed. At the end of what had been a difficult day for me, a scene opened up in my prayer time. I saw many saints standing in white robes radiating with golden light.

“We are all for you,” one of them said.

“Some of us will advise you,” another told me.

“Some of us will protect you.”

“Some of us will just read your books,” another saint added.

“Some of us you will never interact with,” another explained. “But we are enjoying reading what you write.” (Whatever it is you do with your time, the saints in heaven enjoy watching you do it, too.)

“Some of us may not talk to you. But we may tell others in heaven about you.”

Then a child from this golden cloud approached me, handing me flowers. “Thanks for all you do for the kids,” he beamed.

Looking at this scene, I realized that most of the saints in heaven I will never meet while I’m on earth. I’ll interact only with the ones it’s best for me to speak with—people who can advise me, work with me, become friends with me. Many others will simply enjoy watching my life. Even ones I never interact with will appreciate my efforts. They will celebrate what I’m doing on earth.

From that first encounter with John Huss to the interactions I now have almost every day, I’ve gained so much from people in heaven. More

than anything else, I feel like the cloud of witnesses has completed me. They've made it possible to know God more fully and to enter into more and more of what he has for my life.

We were designed to have spirit to spirit connections with people—on earth and in heaven. Part of us longs to make those connections. We feel more fully ourselves when we do. My desire is to open up for all of us a deeper and more life-changing fellowship with people in heaven—so we can step into the fullness of who we, together as a oneness with them, are!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Katharine Wang, M.A., J.D. is a co-founder of Age to Come University ([www.ATCUniversity.com](http://www.ATCUniversity.com)). She's earned a Masters in Theological Studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a J.D. from Yale Law School. For her non-profit, Master the Bible Ministries ([www.MBMmedia.org](http://www.MBMmedia.org)), Katharine has hosted a radio show, appeared on TV, and created fun Bible resources—including the free Kingdom Keys Bible App. With Age to Come University, she loves helping people unlock the divine nature God's placed inside each of us. She believes life's greatest treasure is living from the oneness we share with God.

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