

**How will we know loved ones if they died at a different time and one has aged?**

While there is no specific biblical reference that explicitly states that we will recognize our loved ones in heaven, the Bible shows us that we will know each other more fully than we do now. The Apostle Paul declared, “Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12). We also know from Scripture that our appearance will change. When we pass away, God gives us new bodies. These bodies will be nothing like our earthly bodies. They will not age or experience pain and suffering. First Corinthians 15:52 says, “For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” This is an incredible assurance.

Despite our appearance changing, we will still know each other. When Jesus transfigured on the mount in front of some of His disciples, “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light” (Matthew 17:2). While Jesus was transfigured, His disciples were still able to recognize Him, as well as Elijah and Moses who came from Heaven to speak with Him.

It’s important to remember that what we experience in this world will be very different than what we experience in our life to come. In the twinkling of an eye, we’ll have a new body and the old will pass away. While the old will be replaced with the new, we are still connected with our past as we will continue to live on into eternity.

In Scripture, God is said to enjoy, love, laughter, take delight and rejoice, as well as be angry, happy, jealous and glad. To be like God means to have and express emotions. Therefore, we should expect that in heaven emotions will exist for God’s glory and our good. We know that people in heaven have lots of feelings – all good ones. We’re told of banquets, feasts and singing. People will laugh there (Luke 6:21).