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AN IMAGINED GLIMPSE INTO THE AFTERLIFE

The story is told of a man who dreamed he went to Hell. He heard screaming and arguing coming from a certain room. With trepidation, the man curiously walked over to the room and opened the door. What he saw was not what he expected. He saw people sitting around a table with bowls of soup in front of them. This is Hell? Then he realized why they were upset. They

could not eat their soup. They were trying to, but their spoons were too long, and they could not get the end of the spoons into their mouths. They were frustrated and filled with rage. They were shouting and swearing. Soup was getting spilled everywhere. It was a horrific scene.

Suddenly, the man was transported to Heaven. Everything was different. He heard cheerful sounds. He overheard godly fellowship and joyous laughter coming from a room. He went into the room and saw a similar scene—men and women around a table. Each person had a bowl of soup. But this time, they were enjoying the soup.

Ah, thought the man. They have regular spoons, and they are able to eat the soup.

But no, that was not the case. Their spoons were as long as the spoons in Hell.

The difference was the people. Instead of trying to feed themselves, they were feeding each other.

Questions to consider

That allegorical story isn't a description of Heaven and Hell, but rather it contrasts the characteristics of the inhabitants of these places. Keep this story in mind as you read this book. And think about these questions:

- Who are the people in Hell?
- Why are they in Hell?
- Who are the people in Heaven?
- Why are they in Heaven?

My prayer is that this book will answer these questions and clearly articulate the characteristics found in people who will be in Heaven and in Hell, according to the teachings of the New Testament. But I will not be quoting from the New Testament. I want you to read it on your own and come to your own conclusions.