

# The Pathway to Heaven

How does one get into heaven? There are all sorts of theories in the world, with some suggesting that there are many roads to get there.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, when nearly 3,000 people were killed, that question was posed to Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth.

Specifically, she was asked if those who died in the explosions of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, but had not confessed Jesus Christ as Savior, would go to heaven. She replied:

*In my little book, Heaven: My Father's House, I tell about people who want to visit my father's home in western North Carolina. They drive up the long drive and come to the gate. They knock on the gate and say, "Billy Graham, let us in. We've read your books, we've watched you on TV, we've written to you, and we want to come to your house."*

*And my father says, "Depart from me, I don't know you. You're not a member of my family, and you've not made any arrangements to come."*

*But when I drive up that same driveway and knock on the gate, I say, "Daddy, this is Anne, and I've come home." The gate is thrown right open, and I go inside, because I'm my father's child.*

*Because heaven is God's house, He has the right to decide who comes in and who stays out. He says He will welcome anyone inside His home, but they have to be born again into His family through faith in Jesus Christ.*

*That gives us a wonderful hope that when the time comes – whether death comes as a thief in the night, as it did for those (in the 911 attacks), or as an angel of mercy after a long illness – we can be assured that at the end of the journey, we'll step right into our Father's arms. We'll be welcomed there because we are our Father's children.*

And that is a clear and simple analogy of the Bible's explanation of the pathway to heaven and eternal life there.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter

