



- The **Holy Spirit** was given to us to help us discover the truth.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.... John 16:13 (NLT)

- God wants to spend **eternity** with you and He's done all He can to make that happen for you.

Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. John 14:1-2 (NCV)

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

- Heaven is a prepared **place** for a **prepared** people.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NLT)

Reasons we should want to go to heaven:

- We will be **together** with **God**.

Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)

...people will worship God and will see him face to face. Revelation 22:3-4 (CEV)

... I am going to prepare a place for each of you... Then we will be together. John 14:2-3 (CEV)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

- We will be **together** with **loved ones**.

Someday I will go to him, but he cannot come back to me. 2 Samuel 12:23 (NCV)

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (MSG)

Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (MSG)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. Revelations 21:1 (NLT)

- Heaven is a place of **wholeness**.

4 "He (God) will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" ... 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.' Revelation 21:1-5, 7

How we respond to heaven:

- Let Heaven **excite** you.

...we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20

For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our city in heaven, which is yet to come. Hebrews 13:14

- Let heaven fill your **thoughts**.

Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. Colossians 3:2

We know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—God-made, not handmade —and we'll never have to relocate our "tents" again. Sometimes we can hardly wait to move—and so we cry out in frustration. Compared to what's coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack, and we're tired of it! We've been given a glimpse of the real thing, our true home, our resurrection bodies! The Spirit of God whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less. That's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don't get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? When the time comes, we'll be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming. But neither exile nor homecoming is the main thing. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we'll all face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad. ... That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. 1 Corinthians 5:1-11

When heaven fills my thoughts:

- It keeps me looking **up**.
- It reminds me of the **audience** I live for.
- My current circumstances don't seem so **final**.
- I was created for more than **here**.
- I don't allow myself to get **discouraged**.

That's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! 2 Corinthians 5:6

- I want to **help others** get there.

That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. 1 Corinthians 5:11



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you pursue answers to your questions? Explain. How does the Holy Spirit guide us into truth?
- What is your greatest reason(s) for wanting to go to heaven?
- Does the reality of heaven excite you? What excites you most?
- How often do you think of heaven? How does your awareness of heaven affect your daily life?
- What do you think heaven is like? Why is it important to know that heaven is a "prepared" place?
- How does it make you feel to know that God desires to spend eternity with you?
- How does being together with God in heaven bring comfort and strength to your life?
- What does it mean to you that heaven is a place of wholeness?
- How does being with family in heaven bring strength to your life?
- Read Colossians 3:2-10; How does this encourage you?
- Discuss the points per the sub-heading- "When heaven fills my thoughts". Do you find these to be true in your life?

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Today's Talk..



What is Heaven Like?

Sunday, May 14th, 2023

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