

Heaven Is A Real Place

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When you were born again, you received HEAVEN as an inheritance. But, because you cannot go there until you die or Jesus catches us away at His second coming, what God has done is given you and I a portion of our inheritance while we are still on this earth.

I don't know if there are adequate words to describe that moment when we shall see Jesus. As much as I think about it, I just cannot comprehend the glory of that moment. Yet, as sure as you are reading this letter, that moment will come and we will be standing in His Presence with our lives behind us and eternity in front of us. What we have done or become will be finished forever in respect to our reward and the salvation of our loved ones. Our life with God will take on a whole new dimension.

No matter how much I talk about it, the most difficult vision to install in the heart of a believer is the reality of HEAVEN.

I think the hardest thing to come to terms with is how much effect on eternity our short seventy to a hundred years will have when our life here is over.

I have been in meetings where the power was so heavy people were kicking, screaming, and falling down under the power as devils came out of them.

But, even though these kinds of manifestations are spectacular when it comes to unmasking Satan, please believe me when I say, these kinds of manifestations are the lowest level of Satan's operation.

Satan is not going to handle knowledgeable people like you and me with this kind of operation. It's too obvious and we are too smart.

If you really want to get a long hard look into Satan's face, then let me tell you what he looks like. He looks like that sincere, honest expression on someone's face when they tell you tongues are done away with. He looks like that sincere expression mixed with smugness on the faces of activists who demand the right to abortion. They cover up acts of murder by using words like "ABORTION" as though it gave them the right to kill, while the whole time they are nothing but pawns in Satan's hands, to fulfill his ungodly lust for human sacrifice and murder.

He looks like the expression on the faces of hundreds of thousands of churchgoers, believers who have been neutralized, doomed to an existence of fruitlessness and no reward by the pressures of this life.

And, he has done his finest work when we look back over our life only to find that we have done nothing for God and we don't have any idea who it was, or what it was, that STOPPED US.

You've heard the old saying, "You can't see the forest for the trees." Well, I had no idea how scheming and conniving Satan was until I overcame him enough to get my head out of the trees.

Matthew 7:3 says it this way: "*And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*"

In other words, how are we going to lead anyone out of the forest if we are lost ourselves? How can we lead anyone out of worry, torment, and fear if we are still caught up in it ourselves?

How can we lead anyone into real peace and faith until we have experienced it ourselves? How can we say, "let me help you with your mote" when we have a beam?

But now I am having the time of my life. I have uncovered what Satan fears the most. His worst nightmare is for you to discover that the very faith you are looking for ... the power to receive answers to prayer, the blessing of an abundant life, not to mention health, and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, are all showered upon us when we let the Holy Spirit make the change in our life from a temporary faith that deals with the things of this life only ... to an eternal kind of faith that extends itself past the barrier of death. The rewards and glories of Heaven become the basis for our motivation and the emphasis in our life.

It seems like fantasy land but there is a realm where verses like "All things are possible to him that believeth," and "Nothing shall be impossible unto you..." exist.

But, I can tell you that a man will never have that mountain moving kind of faith until he comes to the place where Satan cannot use anything temporary against him ... not worry or fear, not lust or the incredible power of money, not self-exaltation or glory, not fame or fortune. In fact, it is the devil's job to keep pressuring you relentlessly with torment and fear. He wants you to waste your whole life thinking things like, "If I had money, then I would not have anything to be worried about."

WRONG ... if you had money, you would be worried about losing it besides having to deal with those hidden little thorny seeds ... things that seem to come to life when you have the ways and means to do anything and everything you please.

As long as the devil can keep you thinking that your answer lies in whether or not you have money or in whether or not you can just get out of this pressure-packed situation, then he can keep you looking for answers in all the wrong places. Whether a person knows it or not, they are really looking for the peace and security that can only come from Jesus when we allow Him to transform us into trading the insecurities and fears of this life for the rewards of the billions of years to come.

God cannot give you the cart before the horse. In the Spirit, I saw Satan's worst nightmare. I saw a people who had the kind of faith that I had only seen in His Word. And it was evident that the one hold that Satan had lost over these people was the fear of death.

The devil wants to make sure, through manipulation, that every action we take, every plan we make, is shaped by pressure, deception, or seduction through lust. When we look towards the future, he

wants to make sure all of our plans evolve around number one (self) and are capsulized within the confines of this lifetime only.

The reason the devil has been so successful is because he has two avenues of attack.

1. You and I still wear a body that is susceptible to sin and, if not maintained, has a tendency to break down under the relentless hammering of pressures and lusts.
2. In a subtle manner, Satan uses the fear of death on us because death is a veil and we can't see what's on the other side except by faith. In fact, the only sure account of what is on the other side is given to us by His Word and you have to take that by faith.

Did it ever occur to you that the same faith it takes to read about Heaven in His Word and believe it is real is the same kind of faith it takes when we are believing God for the temporary things of this life here and now? This is why Jesus said to "seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these THINGS shall be added unto you".

In other words, to the same degree that I can look past the veil of death into Heaven and know it is real is to the same degree that I can release the genuine article of power in my life which is faith. Not foolishness or presumption but real faith, not the worried kind that casts a hopeful look in the direction of God hoping He will do something, BUT REAL FAITH.

In fact, when you really think about it, it would be impossible for a disease to cause the death of any believer. Jesus has redeemed us from sickness and pain. The real cause would have to be the inability to receive the healing due to our uncertainties and fears. In the same way, we can't blame the lack of finances as the cause for failing to accomplish all that God has called us to do. It is not the lack of finances but the inability to receive them whatever the reason may be (worry, torment, or fear).

So, let's take a closer look at the kind of faith that puts a foundation under us and brings us into the Presence of God.

When we talk about Heaven, we are talking about a real place where people live, a place where you can pick up a handful of dirt and let it trickle through your fingers, feel it, taste it, smell it . a place where the plains and the rolling hills of Paradise are full of grains and orchards of fruit trees, a place where the saints fellowship and carry on lives that are rich and full.

And, like any society that has order and government, there are certain things that are esteemed higher than others and the greatest rewards and honors are bestowed upon those saints who used their faith to serve God because they came to the realization of how real Heaven was and esteemed it worthy to give their whole lives to.

What I am trying to say is, please don't wait until you are in Heaven for the reality of this to set in. Don't wait until earth is a memory and the glory of Heaven is all around you to say, "If I had only known how real all of this was, I would have treated my life so much more differently on earth."

In the early days of my faith walk, I knew there was an operation of faith that I knew very little

about. Little did I know the reality of what I was looking for, the ability to operate in the fullness of God here and now, would only deepen as the awareness of Heaven deepened.

Like most people, in my own mind I made a definite distinction between the operation of Heaven and the operation of earth. In my thinking, Heaven was always associated with death rather than a place to be embraced and sought after, to be looked forward to with such intensity that it would literally break the barrier of fear that always surrounds death and set my faith free here.

Great persecution surrounded the early church under the Roman Empire. Many believers were put to death because of their faith. To confess Christianity was the same as signing your death warrant. Because of the persecution and the ever present threat of death, it is not hard to understand how a believer would develop a moment-by-moment God-consciousness and awareness of HEAVEN. And, even though it was persecution that drove them into such an awareness of Heaven, it still served the same purpose. It caused them to lose one of Satan's most controlling factors ... FEAR.

I know it is not God's best to be driven to a place of total dedication by persecution or the fear of being brought face to face with death by some terminal disease. His best is for us to totally surrender our lives because of love. It is not that He will not accept a person's consecration who sells out because of persecution, HE MOST EMPHATICALLY WILL! But, His VERY best is to totally sell out just because you love Him!

The Holy Spirit is called the earnest of your inheritance because He is the down payment of what you are going to receive when you get to Heaven. When a person is interested in a house, they may put down earnest money. Then, when the transaction is finished, they move into the house.

When you were born again, you received HEAVEN as an inheritance. But, because you cannot go there until you die or Jesus catches us away at His second coming, what God has done is given you and I a portion of our inheritance while we are still on this earth.

Heaven actually put a down payment on us when God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we could have a little bit of Heaven to go to Heaven with. So if you want the Holy Spirit to create within you the atmosphere of Heaven, then enter into His Presence with praise until it turns into worship.

The difference between praise and worship is this. When I praise God it is an act of my own will and energy. I may not feel like praising God but I begin anyway as an act of my will. WORSHIP kicks in when the Holy Spirit begins to get involved with my praise by literally transporting me into God's Presence.

Most of the church world does not really have to worry too much about entering into worship because our praise is limited or controlled by two or three structured songs. But that's O.K. because that's not where real worship originates anyway.

Real worship comes when we enter into our closet and begin to praise God, not because there is a whole church full of people to watch us, not because of persecution, not because of afflictions, not because we were forced into it by situations we could not handle . and praise Him and praise Him and praise Him just because He is God and we love HIM.

It may take a while. But, somewhere in the midst of your praise, the Holy Spirit is going to lift you up and Heaven will come down to meet you. Instead of the Holy Spirit being strapped with the task of presenting a worried, troubled, tormented soul, full of the cares of this life before the Father, He has the pleasure of presenting you in a state of worship. In fact, when a person presses through into that awesome state of worship, the presence you feel is the Holy Spirit presenting you before the throne of God and you are about to have some incredible things happen for you.