

Jentezen Franklin: How to Know Heaven Is for Real

Life can be difficult. At any given time, there are precious people who are strained and stretched to their limit emotionally. There are people struggling with physical pain or pressured by financial difficulties. There are people challenged by disharmony and chaos in their families and their marriages. It's part of life on earth.

Satan tries to keep us focused on our problems so we forget about our promises. He wants us to live shallow, earth-bound lives. Our enemy wants us to focus on the temporary and lose sight of the eternal, because we become dangerous to his plans when we have eternity in our sight.

He doesn't want us to remember we are headed for heaven.

The apostle John wrote these words while marooned on the Isle of Patmos: "After this I looked. And there was an open door in heaven. The first voice I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, 'Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.' Immediately I was in the Spirit. And there was a throne set in heaven with One sitting on the throne!" (Rev. 4:1-2).

Alone on the island, God allowed John to see a door. From behind the door, he heard a voice saying, "Come up here." Come see what heaven's like. Are you having a bad day, John? Maybe a bad month? Come up here and look at things from heaven's perspective.

Suddenly, John found himself in heaven. He could peer into paradise. He began to experience the sounds, the sights, the beauty of heaven.

Heaven is a real place. Jesus Himself said in John 14 that

heaven was a real place being prepared for all of us to live in. He even said if it wasn't true, He would tell us.

Believe it—heaven is real.

We're going to stand on those streets of gold one day. We're going to hug everyone we love who arrived there before us. We're going to dance in the presence of Jesus.

It's real. It's waiting for us. This world isn't our final destination. It isn't our true home. Our home is with our Father in heaven.

If you've lost a loved one, and you're suffering through the pain and the grief, think about heaven. Get heaven and eternity on your mind. One glorious day, the grave is going to burst wide open, and death will be swallowed up in victory.

Do you know why we have a generation who doesn't think purity and holiness matters? It's because they don't really believe Jesus is coming back to take us to heaven.

We're told in 1 John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

When you hear someone say heaven isn't real, you're hearing a slanderous lie spread by the father of lies. Satan knows firsthand the majesty and splendor of heaven. Satan doesn't want anyone to enjoy heaven. He got kicked out of that wonderful place. He's bitter toward God, bitter toward God's people and bitter about heaven.

Don't believe his lie. Be assured and comforted—heaven is real.

Imagine yourself there.

Imagine seeing your friends who love Jesus. They're running to you in this beautiful place. You're hugging each other and walking together in awe. You have a powerful new body! There's no sickness, no sadness, no death. You're talking and laughing.

Then you see someone approaching. It's Jesus Himself walking toward you with a smile on His face. You fall down to your knees, but He pulls you up and holds you close. He whispers to you, "Welcome home."

The old things of the earth are gone. Everything is new. You feel God's love and His peace permeating this place. You are completely and totally at home, and deeply satisfied. It's the place you always looked for on earth but never really found. And you know that this marvelous place made every trial, every heartache, every pain you experienced on earth totally worth it.

Take comfort in how Paul explains it to the Corinthians: "Our light affliction, which lasts but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

I'm not telling you a fairy tale. This is what the Bible clearly teaches. We need to stand on it. If you're having a bad day, come up here. You're invited. Keep heaven on your mind.

If you're going through something bleak on earth, come up here, and you'll see a whole new perspective.

Whether things are going well or falling apart, come up here.

One day you'll truly be home forever—because heaven is real.
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