

The BEST thing about Heaven
Part 4

Life at last

2/20/2011

Living on the New Earth we will:
See God
Live with God
Live with Jesus

And this will all have a most wonderful effect on each of us.
This effect will be LIFE.
Experience the restoration of life as it was always meant to be.

I. Eternal Life

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

It is the return of the beauty, the intimacy, and the adventure we
were created to enjoy and have longed for every day of our lives.

And yet, *better*, for it is immortal. We can never lose it again. It
cannot be taken away.

Sunrise and sunset tell the tale every day, remembering Eden's
glory, foretelling Eden's return. Life without end.

II. Abundant Life

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come
that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

And what adventures shall unfold when we are given the kingdom
that was always meant to be ours? Listen to this:

“Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are
blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, *the kingdom prepared
for you since the creation of the world.*" Matt. 25:34

Adam and Eve, and all their sons and daughters after them, were
created to reign over the earth—to explore and discover and create
and do all those things you see people do when they are at their
very best.

- That is our destiny.

But what about here and now? Can we live an abundant life?
Absolutely, but it depends on your definition of “abundant life”.

Eternal life begins the moment we accept Christ as our Savior and
therefore we can experience an “abundant life” even now.
However, whatever measure of abundance we can experience here
and now will never be able to compare with what will be ours in
Heaven.

A. Abundant life is not...

1. A life of comfort and ease.

Sometimes we need to "go through the fire" in order for it to melt
away the impurities inside us. This is how God refines us. That is
why James said, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you
face trials of many kinds..." James 1:2.

2. Dependent on circumstances.

It is a peace that passes “all understanding” in the middle of trials.

3. Glamorous, flashy or outwardly impressive.

The abundant life is much like that small gate and narrow road that Jesus told us about in Matthew 7:13.

The reason why so few will find it is because it takes more effort to even notice it. It has no flashing lights, no whistles or bells.

4. Instantaneous

It takes a lifetime to develop your walk with Christ.

OK, so what might an abundant life look like this side of Heaven?

B. Maybe an Abundant life is...

1. You clearly understand that failure is an event, not a person; that yesterday ended last night, and today is your brand new day.

2. You have made friends with your past, are focused on the present, and optimistic about your future.

3. You are filled with faith, hope, and love, and live without anger, greed, guilt, envy, or thoughts of revenge.

4. You are mature enough to delay gratification and shift your focus from your rights to your responsibilities.

5. You know that failure to stand for what is morally right is the prelude to being the victim of what is criminally wrong.

6. You are secure in who you are, so you are at peace with God and in fellowship with man.

7. You have made friends of you adversaries, and have gained the love and respect of those who know you best.

8. You understand that others can give you pleasure, but genuine happiness comes from doing things for others.

9. You are pleasant to the grouch, courteous to the rude, and generous to the needy.

10. You love the unlovable, give hope to the hopeless, friendship to the friendless, and encouragement to the discouraged.

11. You can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion, and up with gratitude.

12. You know that "he who would be the greatest among you must become the servant of all".

13. You recognize, confess, develop, and use your God-given physical, mental, and spiritual abilities to the glory of God and for the benefit of mankind.

14. You stand in front of the Creator of the universe and He says to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." p. 313, "Over the Top", by Zig Ziglar, 1997

III. Relational Life

“This is the way to have eternal life-to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” John 17:3 NLT

If I were to say, “This is the way to Albuquerque.”

You would understand what I mean.

When the Bible says, “This is the way to eternal life...”

We correctly understand that Jesus is the way to Heaven but we miss the greater truth:

Eternal life is not just a location.

Eternal life is LIFE ... (eternal)

Maybe it would be easier for us to understand if the verse read,

“This is the way to LIFE.”