

## On the Threshold of Heaven

We have all heard the statement, “You have to get your priorities straight.” It may come from a person who sees you chasing the wrong priorities in life. It may also come from a spiritual setting that encourages you to look to heaven as your priority. We have busy day-to-day lives with lots of pressures and more tasks than time to do them. Deep down, we know that our priority should be God – not just the earthly to-do list. Let’s get real -- we have lots of people to satisfy – people at work and certainly every member of our family. On the flip side, it has been said, “Don’t be so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good.” So, should we get our head out of the clouds and focus on the reality of earthly priorities?

We can do both. Simply stated, God’s #1 priority is to establish a relationship with us. As a result of that relationship He wishes for us to get to heaven and to bring as many people with us as we can. In our efforts here on earth through our day-to-day lives, we seek not just to accomplish earthly tasks but to help others along the way. We can have a busy earthly life and still live a Christian life, attempting to lead others to strengthen their faith. It means we lead by example, carrying out our responsibilities and meeting deadlines, but allowing God to set our path. Being faithful to God means we live a meaningful and productive life as we grow in our faith. Perfection this side of Heaven is impossible but we still can do our best to live as God wants us to live. God gives us guidelines and an example to follow in the person of Jesus Christ.



I read a recent commentary about this topic which suggests that we consider ourselves as “citizens of heaven and just visitors on earth.” Heaven is the permanent location we seek. Life on earth is only temporary. Visioning ourselves on the “threshold of heaven” will help us to endure the inevitable losses, disappointments, frustrations and moments of discouragement that we all feel at times. The examples (below) from this commentary helped me to better understand the concept.

- A person feeling physically unattractive can take heart in the knowledge that their imperfect body will be glorified after their time on earth is done (read Philippians 3:21).
- A person who compares their meager house with an upscale friend’s house can take comfort in the thought that Jesus is building a mansion in heaven for them (John 14:2).
- A person who is passed over for a promotion or laments over a loss in a championship sporting contest can know that the crown of righteousness they will receive in heaven is a much bigger honor (2 Timothy 4:8).
- Whatever difficulties you face on earth will not be repeated in heaven.

This world is far from perfect, but life in Heaven will be. A mindset of being on the threshold of heaven will give you an optimistic view of the future. People who live in peace and joy from the Lord, in spite of the difficulties of this world, can look forward to the next step and enjoy the ride to get there. When you have your act together you can endure hardships because you know what is coming in heaven.

C.S. Lewis said in his book, Mere Christianity, “Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither.” Heaven is as good as it gets. Trust God’s path of “Thy will be done,” directing us towards a heaven that offers us everything. And, seek to bring others with you, too. That is God’s priority for you.

**The Bible says:** *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Colossians 3:2).*

**Prayer:** Lord. Help us to follow your path as we live on earth, knowing it will lead to us to be residents and citizens of heaven. Amen.

*Examples and concepts in this devotion are from If God Were Your Life Coach, by Jay Payleitner*