

The background of the image is a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. A bright sunburst effect is visible, with rays of light emanating from the right side, creating a sense of warmth and hope. The overall atmosphere is serene and uplifting.

**Heaven is reserved
for God's
spiritual children**

Heaven is only for God's Spiritual children

Everyone who has ever lived has God as creator Father, but only His spiritual children go to heaven. God's spiritual children know their inheritance is in heaven by the sacrifice of Christ; and they live for the inheritance they will share with Christ Jesus.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.'

Peter 1:3-5

"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

1 John 3:2-3

However there are millions who have chosen to become Christians who desire heaven but never go on to put on Christ's life, or endeavored to walk as He walked under the governance of the Spirit of God. Many try to live moral lives and do good deeds in their own strength, but this is not what our Father requires.

Heaven is not available for the good man who puts his religion on like a coat and likes to be called a child of God while he leaves out the need for living spiritually daily. Heaven is reserved for the spiritual children of God.

Our Father requires His spiritual children to be holy

'But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.' 1 Pet 1:15-17

God tells us to be holy as He is holy which means we live as His spiritual children. We will grow in holiness as we work out our

salvation in fear and trembling. (Phil 2:12) Our holiness doesn't come without serious spiritual self discipline.

AW Pink put it this way: "Holiness in the heart discovers itself by godly sorrowing and godly aspirations," and "There is nothing which more plainly evidences a person to be sanctified than a broken and contrite heart, grieving over that which is contrary to holiness. It is as necessary unto the continuance of spiritual life as faith is."

Seeking holiness means God is everything to us. *"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* (1 Cor 10:31) *"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."* 2 Cor 5:14-15

"For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Rom 14:7-8

Richard Baxter wrote in 1662 "The life of a man that lives for God, is seeking Him, to please Him,

honour Him, and enjoy Him: and as much of this he attains, so much does he attain satisfaction and content. If you live to God, and seek Him as your end and all, the want of anything will be tolerable to you, which is but consistent with the fruition of His love. If He be pleased, man's displeasure may be borne. The loss of all things if Christ be won, will not undo us. Man's condemnation of us signifies but little, if God the absolute judge do justify us. He walks not with God that lives not to Him as his only happiness and end."

To maintain our right perspective we need to know God's perspective. What we need is given to us in the Bible, and we need to hold onto the word of God if we are to have peace in the world. We need to hang on to the promises of God in the face of the adversity, and endure in the world if we are to live in peace and go to heaven.

Paul tells us to seriously consider the magnitude of what God has done for us. *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and*

received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

Phil 4:8-9

Dwelling on good things by themselves will not give us the peace of God's promise; the emphasis is to be on the truths of God they have already learnt from Paul.

We will be convinced of God's love for us when we see what He has already done for us; then we can face anything the world may throw at us. *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*

Rom 8:18

Timothy Keller gives us a simple reason for our lack of peace. "See what Paul is saying? He is saying that if you are a Christian today and you have little or no peace, it is because you are not thinking." (and) "Think big and high. Realise who God is, what He has done, who you are in Christ, where history is going. Put your troubles in perspective by remembering Christ's troubles on your behalf, and all His promises to you, and what He is accomplishing."

Having a passion for religion while our daily concerns are taken up with anxiety and the

concerns of the world independently of God, only creates a chasm between us and the saviour of the world. Any attempt to separate our spiritual worship from normal daily concerns amounts to putting God in a box.

Those who place their priority in the world are in danger of hearing Jesus say to them: “*Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.*”

Matt 16:23

Spiritual worship is a lifestyle of giving worth to God. Sunday worship together is necessary, but worship is more than just a Sunday event. In a very real sense, worshipping in spirit and truth is when our hearts are continually and authentically engaged in giving thanks and worth to God in all we say and do, all day and every day. Then all our worship is not focused around what I like, but on what God is like.

Man’s religion is not enough

The Lord Jesus tells us even those who put a good deal of time into their religion are lost souls unless that religion begins and ends with obedience to God. “*Not everyone who says to*

Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter." Matt 7:21

The obedience required obviously means obeying what Jesus taught since He is God and He is the final judge of who will enter heaven. In the final chapter of Matthew's gospel Jesus directs His followers to make disciples and teach them to obey all He has commanded. Now, how can we obey if we haven't taken the time to find out what He expects us to do?

In the gospels we find Jesus gave around 500 commands overall, of which we can be sure around 125 deal with specific issues. This means that obedience is a big deal with Jesus, no less than it was when Moses read God's law to the people of his day.

Even in the world today we are obliged to obey the law. If we go before a judge on earth we will soon be faced with the reality that ignorance of the law is no excuse. For now, the real issue related to our obedience is not the law itself, but our loving relationship with the

law giver. Jesus said *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* John 14:15

No relationship of the person with their creator, means there will be no heaven, for that life is still of a natural man who has not been born again by the Spirit of God to live as a spiritual child of God. Spiritual children live in subjection to the will and authority of Christ who gives life, He is the one who will judge everyone based on their obedience. Matt 7:21

Spiritual life has a cost

It has been the habit of far too many preachers over many years to invite people to ask Jesus Christ into their hearts so they can be saved. This way of thinking carries the correct idea that we can do nothing to get ourselves saved, but it ends up meaning we can live with God as His children by resting totally on the grace of God without actually living as God's holy children should.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer refers to this error: "The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and

spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?" "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

However Jesus doesn't suggest we do nothing to follow Him. Jesus calls us to follow Him by living by His teaching. (John 8:31) Jesus tells us the demand of discipleship is to deny ourselves daily and take up our cross to follow Him. (Luke 9:23) This means we now walk on earth just as He walked on earth. 1 John 2:6

Many people claim to believe in Jesus, but very few believe Jesus and what He taught about what we must do to gain heaven. Spiritual life is only given to the one who has died to self in order to be raised up into new life with Christ. (Rom 6:4-6) Our cross is our unity with Christ and our key to heaven.

The road to heaven is only for spiritual children. *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Matt 7:13-14

Those born of the Spirit are to be spiritual

The person who is reconciled to God is a spiritual child. "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*"
John 3:6

The spiritual child is born of God. John 3:6

The spiritual child has a new heart. Ezek 36:26

The spiritual child is indwelt by the Spirit of God.
Rom 8:9

The spiritual child is a temple of God's Spirit.
1 Cor 3:16

The spiritual child is in the image of God.
Rom 8:29

The spiritual child is to be holy as God is holy.
1 Pet 1:15

The spiritual child is to exist as a living sacrifice.
Rom 12:1

The spiritual child is moved to obey God's instructions.
Ezek 36:27

The spiritual child is obedient. Heb 5:9

The spiritual child's fellowship is with God.
John 17:3

The spiritual child is serving the purpose of God. Rom 6:22

The spiritual child knows the power of sin is dead. Rom 6:6-7

The spiritual child knows the weakness of the flesh is overcome. Rom 8:3-4

The spiritual child's victory is assured. Rom 8:37-39

The spiritual child knows the flesh life is dead in Christ. Gal 2:20

The spiritual child knows their past hurts are healed. 2 Cor 1:3-5

The spiritual child is a servant of God. Rom 6:19

The spiritual child's unity with believers is sealed by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13

The spiritual child's peace and joy is guaranteed. John 14:27

All of the blessings of the Spirit are for the sole purpose of us being an effective witness to Christ; and if all this is true in our life, we can: *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in*

everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thess 5:16-19) The blessings from God point us to God, so we worship Him and not His gifts. True faith believes in the sovereignty of God who will accomplish His will for us regardless of the circumstances we see and experience in the world.

Therefore the Spirit teaches us in the word of God: *'And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.'* Rom 8:28-29

Any continuing lack of peace in our lives is due (1) to the fact we have never repented by denying ourselves and taking up our cross to follow Jesus. (2) or we have failed to believe God that we have a new life immersed in His glory, (3) or because of our ongoing attachment to the things of the world, (4) or because we are still hanging on to the pain of our past, which

makes us blind to what God has done and is doing for us now as His spiritual children.

Any prolonged anxiety, worry, distress, unrest; anguish, fear, dread, panic, agitation, or depression, is evidence of our continued spiritual blindness. And it is also evidence God is calling on us to remember what He has done, and is doing for us in blessing us as His spiritual children. He calls us to trust Him in all things as the remedy for our pain and suffering.

Furthermore, spiritual immaturity, as a lack of faith and obedience at the times of pressure from spiritual darkness, leads us to resorting to life in the flesh, which inevitably flows with the fruits of the spirit of darkness.

We can also know that we are not walking with God when we resort to have unloving attitudes towards others. When we fail the test of mercy and forgiveness, when we fail to restrain our anger, when we are impatient and demanding, and when we are grumbling about what we have to endure. Then it is certain we are grieving the Spirit who lives in us for righteousness sake; and we will not be happy.

Unfortunately, many people suffer because they have the mistaken belief that God has done all that is necessary for the believer when they are saved; but this is far from the truth. This is a lie of the devil to limit maturity, and the usefulness of those who want eternal life, even to turn them back to the world.

We are saved from the condemnation we deserve, and we are saved from the power of sin to dominate our lives; but we are not saved from obeying God. God gives us His Spirit to enable us to keep His commandments, but we are to take up the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, and stand firm in our faith. Eph 6:17

Repeatedly we are commanded to align our lives in faith with what God has done for us and is doing in us. *‘So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing.’* Phil 2:12-14

We are to agree with God, and put our lives into conformity with what He has done; but we can only do that by giving up what He condemns. If we will commit ourselves to obedience, the Spirit will give us the ability to please God.

God says: *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”* Col 3:5-10

Our growth in holiness takes effort and determination, the Lord Jesus puts it very bluntly. *“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and*

throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

Matt 5:29-30

Any failure to deal strongly with what doesn't measure up to Christ's life can have eternal consequences.

The spiritual child has a daily battle for holiness

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."

Gal 5:16-17

Once we are in Christ, and we begin to walk by the Spirit, it doesn't mean we are safe from temptation and the deception of the flesh, but it does mean we can win the battle between the flesh and the Spirit, and this means the battle for control of our lives invariably increases as we grow in spiritual knowledge, because we grow in the ability to see sin as God does.

When we see God more clearly our earthly ways will be exposed to our understanding by

the Spirit of God. Knowledge of the truth doesn't free us from the need of further growth in sanctification, but it does enable us to fight with hope and determination. Every day I am tempted to justify my flesh, and sometimes I don't choose wisely, and I suffer my own just condemnation.

However, the dissatisfaction that results from self indulgence and the grieving of the Spirit is enough motivation for me to humble myself and cry out to God for forgiveness and restitution as I repent and obey Him.

If I ask God to show me my heart so I can deal with its corruption, I have begun to gain wisdom. I acknowledge God is the cause and determination of all good things. But this does not mean I will always see things as God sees, simple because my attachments to the world and my hidden agendas cloud my vision; so I will see as much as I want to see. If I want increased spiritual sight, I have to untangle myself from worldly desires and my personal aspirations. Therefore I mourn within myself in brokenness at my ungodly responses when God confronts me with a disagreeable world.

God has taught me that the desire for spiritual growth has to be prepared for deep personal suffering as we learn to put off self, which sometimes seems as if pulling out rotten teeth, to put on the compassion and mercy of Christ.

Our correct response to our failure to choose the holiness of God's word results in feelings of guilt, but the self-righteous have no such experience. To behave in an ungodly manner without suffering the grief of remorse, is to live according to the flesh as an unbeliever. Instead of seeing sanctification as the ongoing realisation of greater holiness, they believe the lie that they can rest from any effort to work out their sanctification in fear and trembling.

Phil 2:12

But we must be made more suitably holy for fellowship with God by growing in holiness under His spiritual training. *"He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."* Heb 12:10-11

Many have wrongly believed that the outer forms of a religious life are all they need to enter heaven. *"There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness. There is a kind—oh how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance."*

Prov 30:12-13

However, God provides the only way out, the Lord Jesus has promised that if we continue to live by His teaching we will know the truth and we will be truly free from the power of sin.

John 8:31-32

Beware of spiritual deception

The nature of spiritual blindness is that we always see sin in others, and don't see they are a mirror for our benefit. God is using the world to help us have eyes to see correctly. If all we see is the sin of others we are still blind. We may see their spiritual poverty and fail to see ourselves. (Matt 5:3) We may see their spiritual death and don't mourn over our own. Matt 5:4

The blindness of the flesh finds the fault out there, the sight of the Spirit penetrates our own darkness to give us internal light. Jesus warns

us about faulty sight. *“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”*

Matt 7:3-5

We see what we want to see, but Jesus wants us to see as He does

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matt 5:22

We cry out for justice, we want people to pay for hurting us, but the spiritual man leaves the justice to God. As disciples of Jesus we obey His word. *“I say to you, do not resist an evil person.”*(Matt 5:39) We hand them over to God.

Jesus tells us God’s spiritual children have given up their rights for revenge, they have surrendered their rights to property; they no

longer demand their fair share, and they refuse to grumble about how they are treated. *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."* Matt 5:38-41

God's spiritual children are no longer of the world; they no longer have a need to cling to what separates them from total devotion to the kingdom of God. They have been given eyes for God alone. *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"* (Matt 6:22-23) How blind are they who think they see, but live independently of God and His truth?

Therefore we see the error of unrighteous judgment, and we put off the ways of the world as unsuitable for the spiritual children of God.

Those who want peace with God shall be dependent on Him. When we see our error and put off the ways of the world as unsuitable for the spiritual children of God, we grow in holiness.

Holiness comes first by being set apart by God from the world, for His glory and fellowship. Then holiness develops as we deny ourselves daily and follow the example of our Lord. This holy conduct is to be the result of being regenerated as spiritual children by the Spirit of God for a life of devoted conduct, according to God's moral perfection.

Spiritual children do things God's way

God's plan of salvation is to make many spiritual children who will live entirely for their heavenly Father.

Rom 8:29

God desires spiritual children who will reflect His life, and put into practice His plan for the kingdom of God. Our efforts are to be focused on carrying out the plan of our Father, because we love Him and His Son who died so we can be adopted into their family. To have any possibility of achieving the goal set before us

we need to live as those made alive by the Spirit to live in the Spirit, while being strengthened by the enabling of His power, and this is only possible because we have forsaken the world and the ways of men who are spiritually dead.

Those who are spiritually alive know the enjoyment of the world and the things of the world are a distraction from worshipping God with our whole heart, mind and strength. Knowing God intimately gave us spiritual life in the image of Christ. The spiritual children are motivated to have a desire to grow in holiness through their sanctification, so they can love the Father, Son and Spirit more and more. This spiritual life in holiness is the only way we can enjoy God and enter into the eternal kingdom of His righteousness.

Anything less than death to the world by denying our self, is to live in the world, with a notion of religion that lacks the necessary commitment to follow the example of the one who gives life and peace. Our Father didn't intend to make nice people who call themselves Christians, who dutifully go to church on

Sunday. He made special spiritual children who would live entirely for Him every day. Therefore it would be helpful if we claimed our correct holy calling and began living the spiritual life won for us by Christ on the cross; instead of claiming His blood and not His divine life necessary to be glorified with Him.

Spiritual children are to love God with all He has given them through His Son, which is made evident as they love one another, whatever the cost, because love doesn't put self over others. Life now has a new purpose in living the Christ life. *'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.'*
Gal 2:20

The spiritual life of Christ is now our reason for living in this body. Everything else, and everybody else, is now secondary to loving and serving Him in carrying out the work predestined by God before the foundation of the world. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would*

walk in them." (Eph 2:10) *'You (plural) also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.'* (Eph 2:22) *'For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'*

Phil 2:13

And this holy work isn't to make us comfortable in the world that He has called us to leave behind. *"I chose you out of the world."*

John 15:19

'For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'

Rom 8:15-17

We become more sanctified in holiness as we work out our salvation by putting to death that which is earthly in us. We can only do this by walking by the Spirit. Our passion is to walk as Jesus walked every day, not just on Sunday. As the spiritual children of God we work towards our heavenly inheritance by looking to Jesus as

our divine example, with a willingness to endure all things that we might be glorified with Him. *'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'* Rom 8:16-17

Finally: Spiritual life is based on a holy disposition as we are set apart by God for His work. The spiritual children walk with God in the light, so nothing is hidden as they overcome the darkness and grow from one degree of glory to another. They walk daily in the spirit, in truth, by the enabling governance of the Spirit, obeying and serving the Lord who purchased us with His own blood that we can share in His glorious inheritance. Spiritual children walk with God in absolute dependence and trust as the only way to heaven. Therefore the spiritual child seeks their innermost being to be conformed to the Spirit of Christ. The test is, does adversity divide us from God, or drive us towards God? The spiritual children are going to heaven because they continue to live dependently on Christ as Lord. (John 15:5) If this is you, heaven is for you, be at peace.

Living Water Resourcers

Come to the River

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