

# Now and Forever

## Heaven, Part 2

☑ **Target: Lay up rewards in Heaven!**

### Key Verses

*John 11:25–26a—Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (26) And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”*

*Matthew 6:20–21—Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### Suggested Bible Reading

- The beginning: Genesis 1–4
- Wonders of God’s creation: Psalm 8, 104, 148

### Other Recommended Reading

- Heaven’s Secrets*

### Prayer and Praise: “Thank You for Heaven!”

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I thank You for revealing to me our ultimate destination, Your Heavenly Kingdom. Thank You for the Heavenly Kingdom that You have prepared for Your children, a place of such beauty and happiness! I lift my hands in adoration and thankfulness that my name is written in Your Book of Life, and that I’ll be with You for eternity. Thank You that all those who love You will never have to say “good-bye,” but only “until then!”

Lord, I know there are many people who don’t have such a bright future to look forward to. Instead of joyful anticipation of what waits beyond this life, they have fear. Please help me to do my part to bring those who do not yet know You closer to Heaven, by showing them the way (John 14:6). Help me to also do my part to bring Heaven closer to them by being a living sample of the love that You embodied. Amen.

### Meditation: Onward and Upward

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If you want to cross the river, you have to row. If you want to scale a mountain, you have to climb. If you want to explore the bottom of the ocean, you have to dive. If you want to sing, you have to practice. If you want to walk, you have to put one foot out in front of the other—again and again and again.

That’s what life is, a bunch of little steps, a bunch of little decisions to just keep walking, to keep putting the next foot forward. Sometimes it’s involuntary—you do it almost without even thinking about it. But other times you have to put forth extra effort and almost force yourself to keep moving, growing, progressing, and walking.

If you stop and just sit, you'll never get anywhere; you won't make any progress or move closer to the goals you're striving for. So it's important to keep moving and keep taking steps in the right direction, to keep sticking your foot out, even if you can't see the ground it's going to land on. Have no fear; it'll be there to hold you up. Keep going by faith, and the Lord will never let you fall.

*Matthew 7:24–25—Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: (25) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

*John 13:17—If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

<To think about> *What is the Lord asking you to do in your life? What goals does He want you to strive for?*

## **Putting the Word Into Action: Learn About Heaven, Our Eternal Home**

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### **What will you be like in Heaven?**

- The mystery of the resurrection: 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 51–52.
- We will be like Jesus when He was resurrected: Philippians 3:20–21; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Romans 6:4–5.

### **Some qualities of our new heavenly bodies**

- A new body: Luke 24:36–40.
- Recognizable: 1 Corinthians 15:49.
- Powers of movement: John 20:19, 26; Isaiah 60:8.
- Able to eat when we desire: Luke 24:13–32, 42–43.

### **Our heavenly co-workers**

- Heaven is a busy place: Job 1:6a; 2:1a; Hebrews 12:1.
- Heavenly communication: Isaiah 30:31; Zephaniah 3:9.

### **Getting ready for Heaven**

- We don't have to fear death: 1 Corinthians 15:55–57; Romans 7:24–25a; John 11:11, 25; 8:51; Matthew 9:24; 16:28a; Psalm 23:4; Hebrews 2:14b–15.
- Our lives are in the Lord's hands. He'll bring us Home when it is time: Psalm 48:14.
- We can prepare for Heaven by pleasing the Lord: John 6:37b; Revelations 14:13; Matthew 16:27.
- Rewards in Heaven: Matthew 6:19–21; 25:31–40; Psalm 62:12; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10.