

25 – The Best is Yet to Come!



1

Heaven is for Real



2

My topic this evening is “The Best is Yet to Come!” We’re going to try to grasp a picture of what heaven is like. It’s a subject we can never fully comprehend. It’s something we won’t be able to fully imagine. The apostle Paul tells us:



3

(Text: 1 Corinthians 2:9 – 2 slides)

“...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,



4

the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

We can’t fully comprehend heaven unless we’ve been there! But thankfully Paul doesn’t end there. He goes on to tell us:



5

(Text: 1 Corinthians 2:10 – 1 Slide)

“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.”

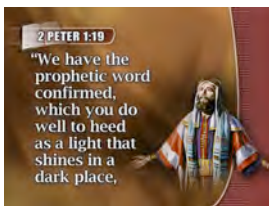
What the Bible does reveal to us about heaven is crystal clear!



6

In fact, do you know that the Bible is full of details about heaven? God wants us to know what heaven is like so we will determine to be there!

He’s given us in His word a reliable source of information about what He has in store for us! Peter describes it this way:



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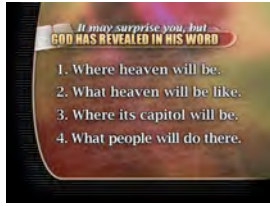
(Text: 2 Peter 1:19)

“We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,

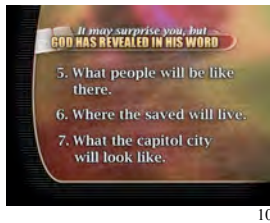
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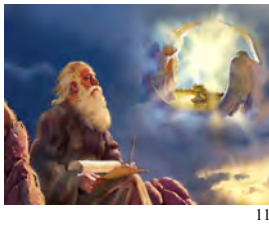
until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”
2 Peter 1:19.



God has revealed in His Word:
Where heaven will be
What heaven will be like
Where its capitol will be
What people will do there



What people will be like there
Where the saved will live
What the capitol city will look like
Now let's take God's word – the Bible, and discover a very real future that God has prepared for His followers.



In the Bible's last book, Revelation, God Himself revealed to John a picture of the future.
John described what he saw:



(Text: Revelation 21:1, 2)
“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

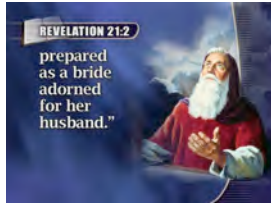


Also, there was no more sea.



Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

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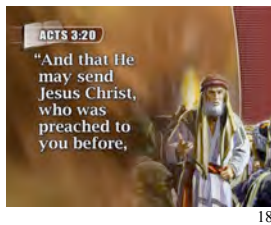
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:1, 2.



Few scenes present such happiness and beauty as that of a bride preparing for her wedding day! That’s how special this place called heaven will be!



This heavenly home is not something that only John saw – many of God’s prophets throughout the ages have known about it. Listen:



18

(Text: Acts 3:20, 21)
“And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,



19

whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,



20

which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”
Acts 3:20, 21.



21

WHAT IS GOD GOING TO RESTORE?

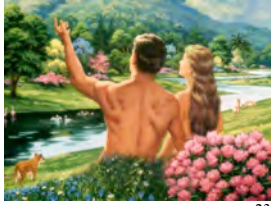
God is going to restore everything Adam and Eve lost! The earth came from the hands of the Creator in splendor and perfection, beautiful beyond description.

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22

The Creator Himself had designed and decorated Adam and Eve's home, the Garden of Eden, a paradise. God had given them the dominion of the earth.



23

They had perfect health, love, happiness, joy, and face-to-face fellowship with God. Everything was peace and harmony. They would never get sick or die if they chose to obey God's instructions.



24

And His instructions were: "Don't eat of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, or you will die."



25

But they chose to eat of the tree. They listened to a cruel, deceiving rebel angel named Satan rather than listening to a loving, caring God.



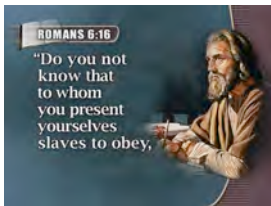
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For the first time in their lives, they felt guilty, ashamed, and afraid. By their disobedience, they lost everything: their garden home, their dominion of Earth, and access to the Tree of Life.



27

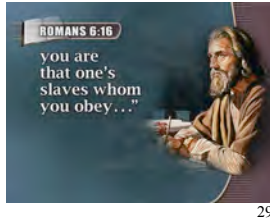
No longer did they have eternal life. Their happiness, love, and fellowship with the Creator would end. Our perfect world became blighted with the curse of sin. Earth became a place of sorrow and suffering, of disease and death. No longer masters, Adam and Eve became slaves.



28

(Text: Romans 6:16)
Paul said, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey,

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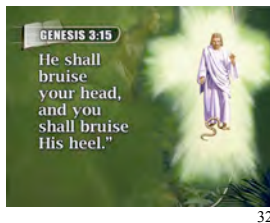
you are that one's slaves whom you obey?" Romans 6:16. But a loving, caring God understood. The serpent had deceived Adam and Eve. God loved them so much He couldn't leave His erring children without hope.



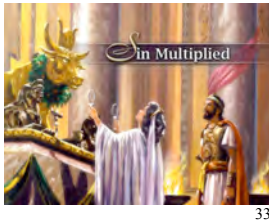
At the gates of the garden, God promised Adam and Eve that one day His Son, the Seed of the Woman, would come and die for them so they could be restored to the Family of God and have eternal life. He said to the serpent:



(Text: Genesis 3:15)
"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;



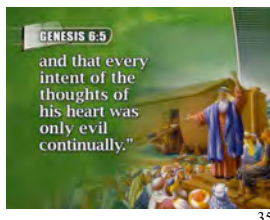
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15.



As generations passed and men multiplied on earth, sin also multiplied. Mankind had almost forgotten God and His promise.



(Text: Genesis 6:5)
People became vile and immoral and "the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,



and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.

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36

It finally became necessary for God to destroy the wicked by the Great Flood in order to preserve life on the earth. Only eight people survived! After the Great Flood, it wasn't many generations before people became corrupt again.



37

In order to preserve a holy people on earth, God called Abraham and his family out of the idolatrous and corrupt Ur of the Chaldees.

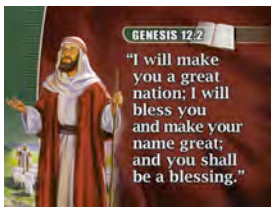
His family would doubtless have become wicked also had they stayed in that city.



38

(Text: Genesis 12:1, 2)

The Lord said to Abraham, "...Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you."



39

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." Genesis 12:1, 2.



40

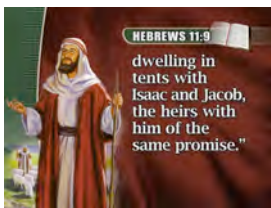
Abraham was willing to leave the luxury of his Chaldean home. He didn't know where he was going, but he did have a glimpse of what God had in store for him.



41

(Text: Hebrews 11:9, 10)

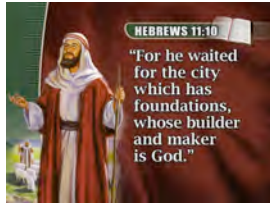
"By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,



42

dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."

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43

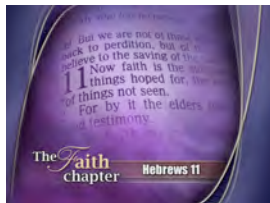
For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9, 10.

God promised to give to Abraham and his children all that Adam and Eve lost.



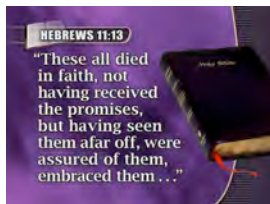
The prophets of all ages believed and looked forward to the restoration of all things.

God lists some of the Bible's Hall of Faith in Hebrews chapter eleven.



Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Abel, Isaac, Rahab, David, and Samuel are just a few of the great people of faith who believed in God's promise to restore what Adam and Eve lost.

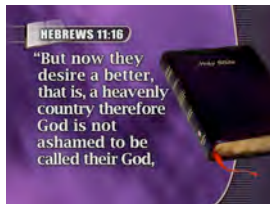
Notice what the Bible says about these heroes:



46

(Text: Hebrews 11:13, 16)

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them...."



47

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,



48

for He has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:13, 16.



Isaiah, the greatest of all the messianic prophets, gives us a thrilling description of the restoration God has prepared, Let's take a look at the things God revealed to Isaiah:

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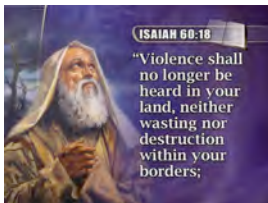
(Text: Isaiah 65:17)

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth:



51

and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”
Isaiah 65:17.



52

(Text: Isaiah 60:18)

And again: “Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders;



53

But you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.”
Isaiah. 60:18.



54

Just think – NO violence there! Just peace and harmony!

Isn't that WONDERFUL to think about?

No need there to find weapons to defend and protect ourselves.

No rapists or thieves!

And won't it be wonderful to walk those streets of gold and not worry about being attacked or robbed?

But that isn't all that the prophet can tell us.

Listen:



55

(Text: Isaiah 11:6)

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat....

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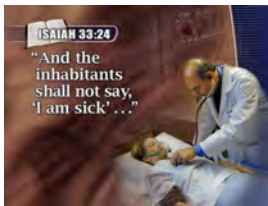
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and a little child shall lead them.”
Isaiah 11:6.



57

Not only will the world around us be restored to its original perfection; we too will have restored, healthy bodies! Listen to what Isaiah says:



58

(Text: Isaiah 33:24)
“And the inhabitant shall not say, ‘I am sick’.”
Isaiah 33:24.
No heart attacks, no cancer, no allergies – just perfect health for eternity! Isn’t that great news?



59

(Text: Isaiah 35:5)
“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened.” Isaiah 35:5.
Can you imagine the scene? Oh, what a glorious day that will be for those who were blind! But they won’t be alone in their rejoicing:



60

(Text: Isaiah 35:5, 6)
“...The ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.” Isaiah 35:5.



61

“Then the lame shall leap as a deer.” Isaiah 35:6.
No more wheelchairs! No more crutches!
Everyone will have perfect bodies.



62

(Text: Isaiah 35:6)
“...And the tongue of the dumb sing.” Isaiah 35:6.
Not only will they talk, but they will sing!
What a happy day that will be!
But there is even more wonderful news!

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63

(Text: Isaiah 35:1)

“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.” Isaiah 35:1.

What a beautiful place the new earth will be!



64

(Text: Isaiah 65:21, 22)

“They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.



65

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat;



66

for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”

Isaiah 65:21, 22.



67

It certainly sounds as if heaven will be a real place with real people doing real things, doesn't it?

In fact, we will know others, and people will know us!



68

(Text: Isaiah 66:22, 23)

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me,’ says the Lord,



69

‘so shall your descendents and your name remain.’” Isaiah 66:22.

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70

“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another,



71

shall all flesh come to worship before me,' says the Lord.”

Isaiah 66:23.

The new earth will be a happy place, a joyful place, for God and His people.



72

(Text: Isaiah 35:10)

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing,



73

with everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isaiah 35:10. Doesn't that sound exciting?



74

It will be a wonderful, joyful celebration as the saved come each Sabbath to the Holy City to praise and sing and have fellowship. Jesus said He is building us each a mansion.

We'll enjoy that, but Isaiah said we too will build houses!



75

It seems that perhaps we will have a country home that we ourselves will build, and then each weekend we will go to the capitol of the New Earth and use our mansion in the city. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will descend from God out of heaven.



76

The Bible picture of heaven is clear.

Earth, this planet in rebellion, fallen by sin, will become the capitol of the whole universe.

It may surprise you, but this earth is to be the future home of the saved. Jesus stated it this way.

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77

(Text: Matthew 5:5)

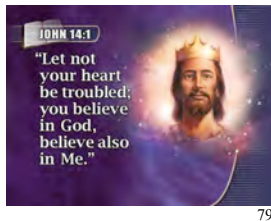
“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5.

God is going to restore Planet Earth to its original perfection, and what a glorious New Earth that will be!



78

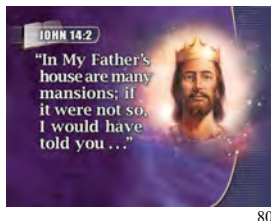
Perhaps you will remember some of the wonderful promises Jesus gave to His disciples and followers of all ages just before He returned to heaven:



79

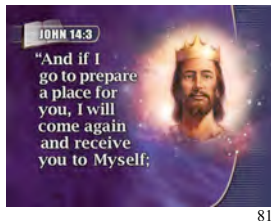
(Text: John 14:1-3)

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me



80

In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you...



81

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself;



82

that where I am, there you may be also.”
John 14:1-3.

The model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples says,



83

(Text: Matthew 6:10)

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10.

Here we see that Jesus asks us to pray for the restoration of all things.

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84

Now, let's consider in more detail the magnificent city John saw in vision on the Isle of Patmos.

It seems as if the prophet had a hard time finding words to express the grandeur of the Holy City.



85

When John unfolds the details of the Holy City, it seems just too fabulous to be true.

But we have God's Word for it! Here's what John saw.



86

(Text: Revelation 21:1-3, 11, 17, 21)

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”

Revelation 21:1.



87

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2.



88

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,



89

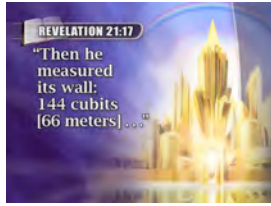
and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” Revelation 21:3.



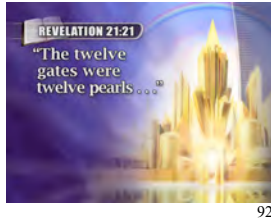
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“... Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Revelation 21:11.

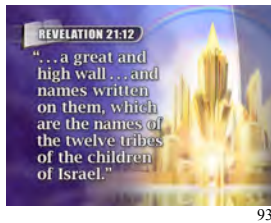
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"Then he measured its wall: 144 cubits [66 meters] . . ." (verse 17).

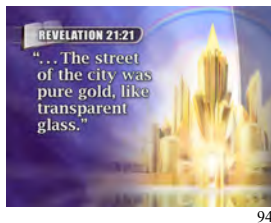


"The twelve gates were twelve pearls . . ." So there are pearly gates! (verse 21).

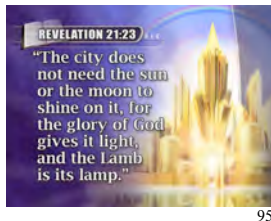


(Text: Revelation 21:12, 21, 23)

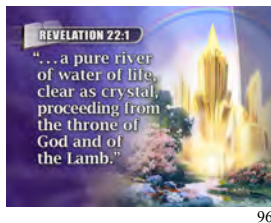
"... a great and high wall ... and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel." (verse 12).



"... The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." (verse 21).

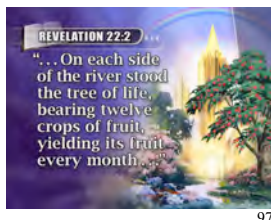


"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp." (verse 23).



(Text: Revelation 22:1, 2, 5)

"... a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."



"... On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month . . ."

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98

"There shall be no night there . . ." Rev. 22:5.
The throne of God and the Lamb will be in the capitol, New Jerusalem.



99

(Text: Revelation 22:3)
"And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it . . ." Rev. 22:3.
And one of the most wonderful gifts is found in Revelation 21:4:



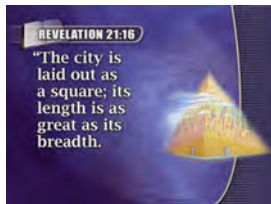
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(Text: Revelation 21:4)
"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow,



101

nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4.
Perhaps you are wondering how big the Holy City is.



102

(Text: Revelation 21:16)
John gives exact details as to the size of this city: "And the city is laid out as a square, its length is as great as its breadth.



103

And he [that is, the angel] measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs."
Revelation 21:16.
[A furlong is one-eighth of an English mile-thus 12,000 furlongs would be about 2400 kilometers around].



104

Ancient cities were measured by the distance around the outside walls. So the city would be approximately 600 km or 375 miles on each side.
And perhaps you are wondering if this city will be large enough for the saved.

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105

One mathematician has estimated that the New Jerusalem could house two billion people!

In other words, there will be room for everyone who wants to be there.

But what will keep us busy in such a wonderful place?



106

No crime, no sickness, no hunger or disease—just peace and harmony forever!

It sounds as if we will do a lot of things: Build our country dream home, plant our own gardens.



107

Jesus, the Creator, will be there to open to us the mysteries of Creation.

We will always be learning new things.

We will be able to travel any time we wish.



108

We will have time to be with our friends and loved ones.

And each Sabbath we will be praising God and singing with the angels and Jesus—our special time to fellowship with our Lord.

Well, you may ask, “How can we be certain that we can be there?”

The answer is simple.



109

(Text: Galatians 3:29)

“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Galatians 3:29.



110

In other words, if you accept Jesus as your Saviour this promise that God gave to Abraham is yours too!



111

As we study the Bible, it is interesting to notice that the first three chapters tells how God created the world and the paradise home for Adam and Eve.

But Adam and Eve lost it all.

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112

The last three chapters of the Bible give us a preview of God's plan to restore what Adam and Eve lost – a beautiful tomorrow where our fondest dreams will come true!



113

A number of years ago, a boat transporting sheep became lost in the fog on the North Sea. The boat drifted aimlessly for three days. The sheep aboard the boat refused to eat the stale hay. They wandered to the side of the ship and began to bleat. They continued to baa and baa and baa. The captain and shiphands were utterly amazed. They wondered why? Soon the fog lifted. The boat was a few yards off the Scottish coast.

The sheep had smelled the freshly mown hay lying in beautiful Scottish fields. They refused to eat the days-old, stale hay their owners tried to feed them.



114

When we get a smell of heaven, we adjust our priorities. When we get a smell of eternity, everything else fits into place. We long for another land. We want to be on eternity's shore.

Are you homesick for heaven? Do you want to be there?

Is the desire of your heart to live with Christ in glory forever?

Would you like to say, "Yes, Lord, I want to be with you. I long to be with you forever and ever and ever?"



115

(Text: Revelation 22:17)

God gives you the invitation: "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'." Revelation 22:17.

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Don't put it off!

You can be a part of God's fabulous tomorrow.

Invite Him into your heart and heaven will be your home!

We're going to pray.

As we pray tonight, is the Spirit of God touching your heart?

Maybe you've drifted away, and God's calling you back tonight.

Maybe you've been hesitating, and you're about ready to make a decision to be baptized, and God is calling you tonight. If God is calling you, I'm going to pray for you. Maybe you've drifted away, and you may not need to be baptized, but there's some sin in your life that you need to deal with.

I have an appeal for three groups of people tonight, and I just want you to raise your hand if the Spirit is speaking to you. First, if you have made the decision to follow Jesus and be baptized, and you want to look forward to being baptized soon, I want to pray for you tonight. If you want to look forward to baptism soon, just lift your hand wherever you are. *[As hands are lifted, say "God bless you, God sees your hands.]*

Tonight if you've drifted away, and you're saying, "Lord, I want to come back to you, I want to just lift my hand and I want to come back, Jesus." You may not need to be baptized, but you want to come back to Jesus, just raise your hand.

Thirdly, if there's somebody here that has some habit, some problem in your life that is holding you back, some sin in your life and you want to say, "Lord, I'm surrendering that habit to you right now, I'm surrendering that sin to you right now, I want to be in heaven with you," just raise your hand. God bless each one of you. God sees each hand, God sees each heart. Let's pray together just now.

[Suggested Prayer]

"Father in heaven, thank you for Jesus, thank you for His love, thank you for his grace, thank you for his power. We want to say tonight that we love you. We want to be in heaven with you. Father, please move upon our hearts deeply tonight. Help us to open our hearts to your amazing love. Help us to surrender our hearts to you completely. We look forward to being with you forever. May not one of us be missing, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen."
