

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

# activated

Vol 11 • Issue 4

## HERE COMES LOVE

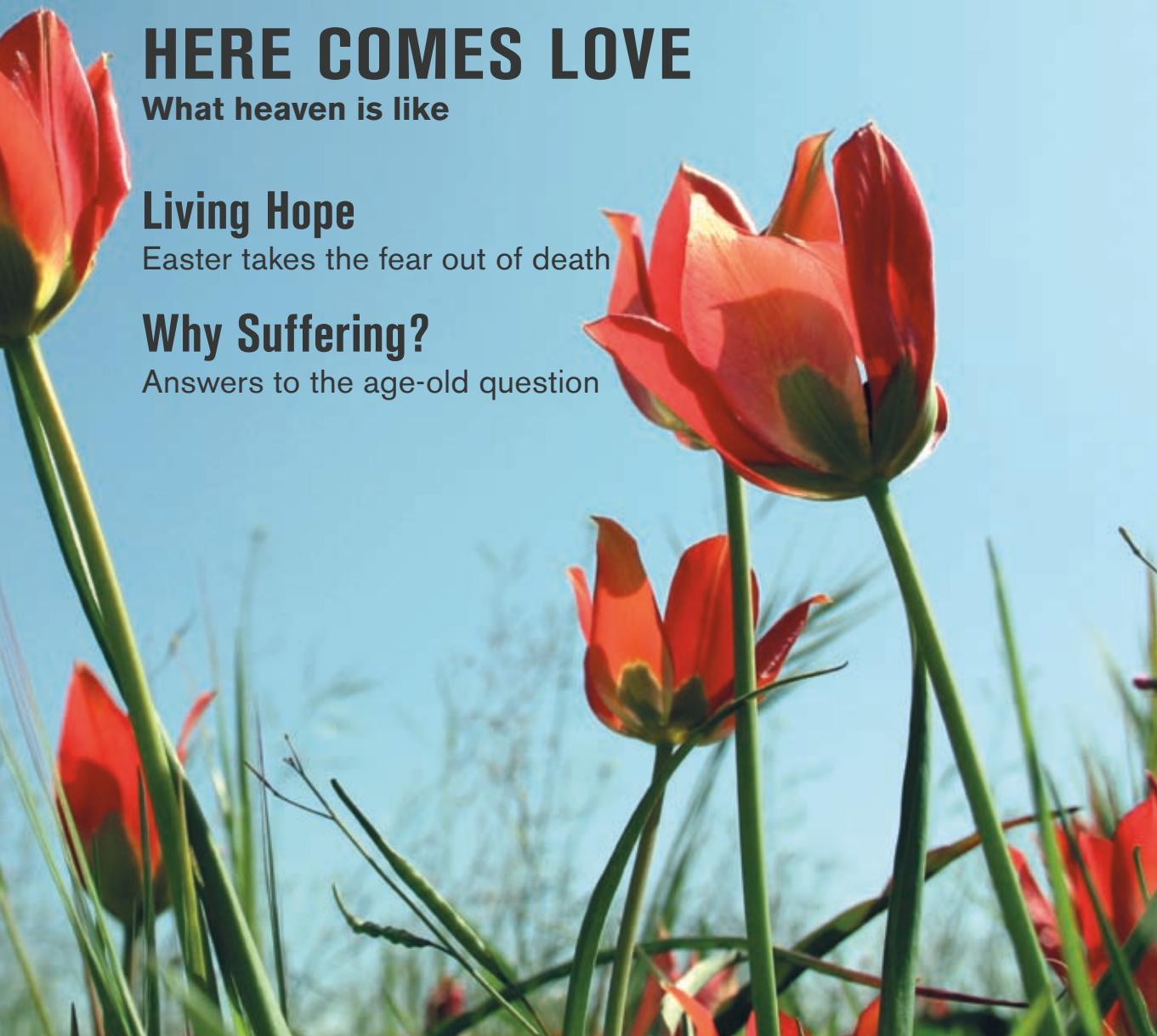
What heaven is like

### Living Hope

Easter takes the fear out of death

### Why Suffering?

Answers to the age-old question





## PERSONALLY SPEAKING

If you were told that a brand-new palatial mansion was yours, bought and paid for, would you believe it? What if it was guaranteed in writing? Wouldn't you believe it then, and wouldn't you want to find out where your new home was located and what it looked like?

Wouldn't you ask about the view, the neighbors, the climate, and every other detail you could think of? Wouldn't you start dreaming of the day you would move in? And how do you suppose that news would change your life and priorities in the meantime?

Well, someone *has* promised you such a mansion—Jesus—and He has put it in writing. “In My Father’s house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also.”<sup>1</sup> If you have received Jesus, it’s all yours—no payments, no taxes, no upkeep. Sound too good to be true? Well, that’s just the beginning.

Even the most luxurious home won’t do you much good without good health and time to enjoy it, so God made provision for those too. “I am the resurrection and the life,” Jesus promises. “He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”<sup>2</sup> Eternal life in a new, supernatural body that is impervious to sickness, disease, or death is also part of the deal.<sup>3</sup>

And just as the best things in this life are shared, so it is in the next. You will be reunited with loved ones and friends to enjoy all of this and much, much more—gifts from your heavenly Father, who the Bible calls love itself.<sup>4</sup>

This issue of *Activated* gives a glimpse into the heavenly realm. Once you see what awaits you there, you will never see this present world quite the same.

Keith Phillips  
For *Activated*

1. John 14:2-3
  2. John 11:25-26
  3. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
  4. 1 John 4:8
- 2

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# no exit?

BY CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER



IN MY HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE CLASS WE STUDIED THE JEAN-PAUL SARTRE PLAY *NO EXIT*, IN WHICH HELL'S OCCUPANTS ARE CONFINED TO A ROOM AND HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT ENGAGE IN FRUITLESS, POINTLESS DISCUSSIONS.

In David Brandt Berg's article "The Green Door," hell is a polished hospital-like facility with rooms full of people involved in much the same work they did on earth, but without any hope of achieving anything worthwhile: scientists engage in endless experiments that bear no results, soldiers fight battles that never end, trains never reach their destinations, and rockets don't make it off the ground. Nothing ever gets done. In *Inferno*, the first part of Dante's epic poem *A Divine Comedy*, part of hell is pictured as an endless

mountain range that one must keep climbing, one peak after another.

But heaven is just the opposite. According to the Bible, as well as the testimonies of hundreds of people who have had documented life-after-death experiences in which they were clinically dead for a short time before being revived, heaven is a busy place, with fruitful work being done by fulfilled people. This is in stark contrast to the popular misconception of the blessed spending eternity floating on clouds and idly strumming harps.

And the joy we look forward to in heaven can begin right now. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus prays to God the Father, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."<sup>1</sup> And another time, when asked when the kingdom of God would come, He said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation, for indeed,

the kingdom of God is within you."<sup>2</sup> In other words, it's already here in our hearts—or *can* be.

The 1828 edition of *Webster's Dictionary* defined "life" as: "The enjoyments or blessings of the present life; supreme felicity; eternal happiness in heaven." Again, it's both here and now, and there and then.

The apostle John makes it more personal by saying, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."<sup>3</sup>

To know Jesus personally *is* to have a taste of heaven.

So there *is* an exit, a way out of futility and uncertainty. Jesus can give us new meaning and purpose. It all begins when we let Him into our lives.

CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN INDIA.✝

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1. Matthew 6:10  
2. Luke 17:20-21  
3. John 17:3



# COMFORT IN LIFE'S DARK HOUR

BY VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG

NEVER HAVE I BEEN SO GLAD THAT I HAD FAITH AS WHEN MY HUSBAND DIED.

Oh, the comfort, the blessing, the peace in the hour of trial that those of us who believe can draw on. Many of the condolence cards that I received had messages based on this Bible verse: “We sorrow not as those that have no hope”<sup>1</sup>—and that is so true!

When I was visiting my husband in the hospital, I talked with people who had no faith, who were standing by the bedsides of dying loved ones without any consolation or hope. I thank God for His wonderful plan of redemption that makes me know that I’m going to meet my husband again in a better place—a plan that was worked out in God’s mind from the foundation of the world, that though we die, we shall live again.<sup>2</sup> I thank God, too, for the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and the third day arose so that we could do likewise.<sup>3</sup> God gives a special dispensation of grace when we need it. We don’t have it beforehand, but when we come right up against what would otherwise be a time of severe heartbreak, there He is.

When my husband was sick, I would often sing to him, standing by his bed. I don’t have a beautiful voice, but the hymns were beautiful, and his favorite was a verse of “How Firm a Foundation.”<sup>4</sup>

Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand.  
And when through deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.

How God upheld me! I’ve seen that promise from His Word proven true once again. I came to deep water, but it did not overflow me.<sup>5</sup>

You know, life isn’t complete without faith in God. He says that He came that we may have life and have it more abundantly.<sup>6</sup> How true that is! It’s such an abundant life when we have faith.

When going through my husband’s things, I found this poem that he kept in his Bible.

## AFRAID?

By E.H. Hamilton

Afraid? Of what?  
To feel the spirit’s glad release?  
To pass from pain to perfect  
peace,

The strife and strain of life to  
cease?

Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
Afraid to see the Savior’s face,  
To hear His welcome, and to trace  
The glory gleam from wounds of  
grace?

Afraid? Of that?

Afraid? Of what?  
A flash—a crash—a pierced heart;  
Brief darkness—Light—

O heaven’s art!  
A wound of His a counterpart!  
Afraid? Of that?


Afraid? Of what?  
To enter into heaven’s rest,  
And yet to serve the Master  
blessed?  
From service good to service best?  
Afraid? Of that?



“Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.”—Thomas Moore (1779–1852)

My dear husband wasn't afraid to move on, and if you have received Jesus as your Savior you won't be afraid either, because you'll know that He will be with you. Though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He says, “I will be with you.”<sup>7</sup> He will be there to comfort you.

Never has God's love proved so great, never His mercy so sure and His grace so abundant as during the week after my loss. I praise Him with all my heart for fulfilling His Word and for His faithfulness.

VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG (1886–1968) WAS AN EVANGELIST, RADIO MINISTRY PIONEER, AND THE MOTHER OF FAMILY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDER DAVID BRANDT BERG. 

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
2. John 11:25–26
3. 1 Corinthians 15:4
4. John Rippon, 1787
5. Isaiah 43:2
6. John 10:10
7. Psalm 23:4
8. Revelation 21:4
9. Romans 8:18
10. Psalm 30:5
11. 2 Corinthians 4:17



## TEARS IN HEAVEN

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

The Bible doesn't say there aren't going to be any tears in heaven. When we get to heaven and face God, we will no doubt all have a few tears to shed for mistakes we made and opportunities we missed and loved ones that we'll wish we'd loved more and been kinder to. We will all have something to be sorry about and ashamed of then.

But isn't God wonderfully loving and merciful? He says He's going to wipe away all those tears. “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”<sup>8</sup>

The Bible says, “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.”<sup>9</sup> When we think about that, it helps us bear some of the things we have to go through now.

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”<sup>10</sup> We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and the end of life's road. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”<sup>11</sup>



# Thinking about you in heaven

BY LILY NEVE

You can fly, unhampered by gravity or any other earthly limitation. I wonder what that feels like.

AS I WAS WALKING THIS EVENING ON THE COUNTRY ROADS IN THE HILLS BEHIND MY HOUSE, I REALIZED THAT NEXT WEEK IT WILL BE FIVE YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU, SINCE YOU LEFT US.

At first I was saddened by the thought, but suddenly it struck me differently. *Five years in heaven. You've spent five years in heaven. What that must be like!*

Rounding a bend, a spectacular sunset came into view. The sky was awash in pinks and blues, amplified by a pre-monsoon day that had alternated, sometimes suddenly, between sunny, brilliant blue skies and rain clouds.

"In heaven," I thought, "there must be even more spectacular light shows." I recalled accounts of near-death experiences in which folks who had momentarily experienced heaven spoke of vibrant colors that don't have names or even exist here. Compared to those colors, they said, our world seems monochrome. I climbed up a small embankment and spent a few moments gazing over rice fields at the setting sun and thinking about what you must be enjoying.

To my right a wave of angry dark clouds was rolling in, threatening to take over the sky completely. Again, I thought of you and heaven. *There* is something you won't have any more of—the gloomy darkness that threatens to overtake our earthly existence and steal our joy. You've left that behind forever! Hurrah! "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more

pain, for the former things have passed away.”<sup>1</sup> Turning away from the blackness to my right, a flock of birds soared across what remained of the sunset. Again, I smiled. Now there’s a part of heaven I can scarcely fathom! You’re not earthbound there. You can fly, unhampered by gravity or any other earthly limitation. I wonder what that feels like. I really don’t have a clue.

All of this got me thinking about you—not as I saw you last when your sickness had changed so much for us both, or even the happy memories of our lives together before that—but about you in heaven. That was something I had never been able to do before.

I passed a small boy, maybe five or six years old, carrying his baby brother as he staggered down the road. A little later I walked past an adorable toddler with pigtails and dimpled cheeks. She grinned at me cheerfully. Moments later a mother passed, holding her baby close to her side. Children. There’s something that heaven and earth have in common. And knowing your love for children and how you enjoyed caring for them here, I’m sure you’re surrounded by children there too.

I recalled another Bible verse describing heaven: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain.”<sup>2</sup> Well, we all know that’s something that can’t be said of this old world. “Hurt and destroy”—unfortunately we’re doing plenty of that! We hurt ourselves, we hurt others, and we’re destroying this wonderful world that God made for us to live in, care for, and enjoy. That’s not such a happy thought, really, and that’s a part of

heaven we can’t experience yet, it seems.

But wait. There were more similarities between heaven and earth that I hadn’t thought of. Another verse came to mind—God’s promise to make all things work together for good in the lives of those who love Him.<sup>3</sup> That’s *all* things, including the harm and pain that others have done to the world and to us, as well as the harm and pain we have done to others. Another touch of heaven on earth!

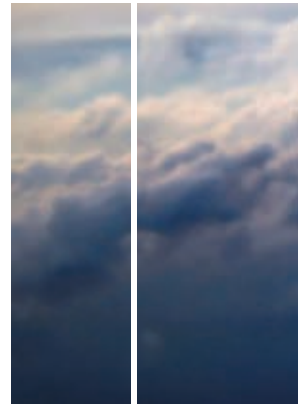
I was almost home when I thought of the greatest bridge between my realm and yours—love. Why hadn’t I thought of that sooner? Love is the magic that connects our worlds. And it is undiminished by time. I love you as much as I ever did, and although I miss your physical presence, your unconditional love is a constant that guides my life still. And there is the supreme love of Jesus, who will make such a wonderful future for us all, a place where we’ll be together forever, reunited at last.

If there are hues over there that defy description, then I know that love will also be magnified that much more, both Jesus’ perfect love for us all and the loving cords that bind us to those dearest to us, whether we are here or there.

It’s been nice today, thinking about you in heaven, Mom.

LILY NEVE IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN SOUTH ASIA.✿

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1. Revelation 21:4
  2. Isaiah 11:9
  3. Romans 8:28



# here comes Love

## what heaven is like

BY MARIA FONTAINE

THE BIBLE TELLS US A LOT ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE GET TO HEAVEN—WHAT IT'S LIKE, WHAT *WE* WILL BE LIKE, AND WHAT WE'LL DO THERE. There have also been numerous accounts from people who caught glimpses of heaven during brushes with death, and other people have seen departed loved ones in visions or dreams, or received messages from them with details of what they found life in heaven to be like.

One of the most important things about life in heaven, which many people find surprising, is that it's not entirely different from life on earth. I realize this may not sound like good news, considering all the evils in this world and the sadness that you may have experienced in your own life. However, when I say heaven is similar to life on earth, I mean that you'll find many things very relatable to your life here.

The big difference is that heaven is a perfect world, a world where we can enjoy all the beauties and pleasures that we have here on earth, but without the sorrow, pain, emptiness, loneliness, and fear that so often grip us, and without the selfishness, greed, and destruction that we see in the world around us.


In heaven there is only love, beauty, peace, comfort, understanding, joy, willingness to help and to give, thoughtfulness, caring for one another, and most of all, being enveloped in the love of the One who loves us more than anyone—God Himself. The Bible tells us that God is a God of love.<sup>1</sup> Therefore His home, heaven, is a home of love, where we will feel no pain, no sorrow, no rejection, no loneliness—only love! Isn't that wonderful?

Heaven holds many similarities with our physical world. We know from the Bible and other accounts that we're going to look much the same as we do now. We'll have our loved ones and families around us. We'll enjoy each other's company and live happily together forever. If that sounds like paradise, well, that's what heaven is.

Many people have the mistaken impression that heaven is going to be a very boring place where we'll have nothing to do but sit around and play harps and sing praises to God. Well, I'm sure that people can play the harp if they want to, and we certainly will be praising God, but our life in heaven will be much fuller than that. We'll be busy with things that truly matter, things that make a difference in other people's lives. We'll be investing our time in things that make us happy, inspire us, and give us joy.







The last two chapters of the Bible's book of Revelation describe heaven as a gigantic golden city about 2,200 km (1,400 miles) wide, 2,200 km long, and 2,200 km high.<sup>2</sup>

That's enough "floor space" to cover half of the United States or most of Western Europe. As you can imagine, if you divide it into multiple levels, a space this massive can house billions of people, with room to spare.

The Bible describes the city streets as being made of pure gold, with a wall surrounding the city made of twelve types of gems. We will have houses there, heavenly "mansions," where we can live with our families and loved ones who have also believed and received God and His love into their lives.

Life in heaven is a lot like that which we have on earth, but much, much better. It's a place that is alive, vibrant, warm, and, where you'll be able to enjoy all the pleasures that you've ever wanted, and where your dreams will come true. It's as though you took life here on earth, removed all the bad things, and then added a lot of love, joy, peace, happiness, and fulfillment.

Maybe you're wondering how you can make sure you will be able to live in such a wonderful

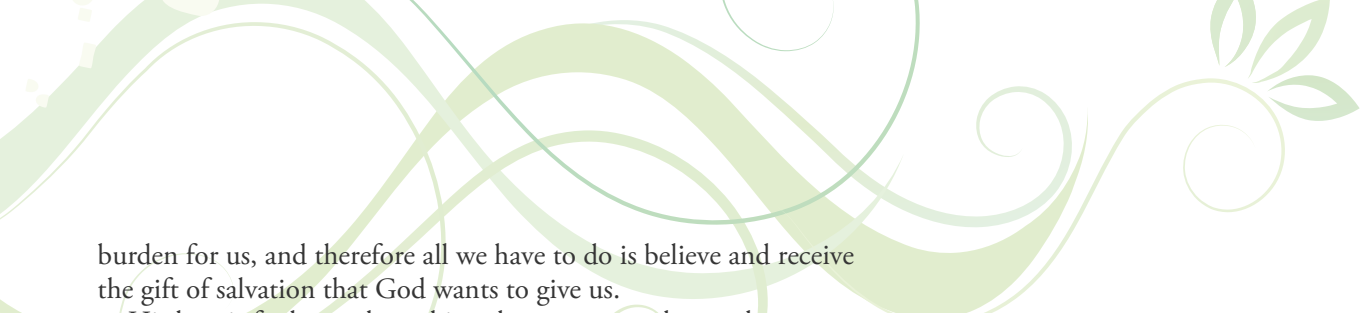
place as heaven, once your time on earth is over. Perhaps you've been told that only those who are very good get to go to heaven. You may feel that excludes you, since you know you've made mistakes and have at times done things that were wrong, unloving, and hurtful.

Well, I have good news for you! *Anybody* can get free entrance to heaven. Anybody can be taken into the arms of love and receive the joy, fulfillment, and everlasting love that God wants to give each of us, both here and in the life to come—and that includes you. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done. It doesn't matter how good or how bad you are, because none of us can be good enough to earn a place in heaven. It is a gift of God.<sup>3</sup>

Jesus paid our way by dying for our sins, and so, through simply receiving Him as our Savior, we can be sure of a place in heaven. That relieves us of the burden of having to be good enough to go to heaven, which we couldn't do anyway, because we're only human, after all. Jesus took our

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1. 1 John 4:8
  2. Revelation 21:16
  3. Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8–9





burden for us, and therefore all we have to do is believe and receive the gift of salvation that God wants to give us.

His love is far beyond anything that we can understand or see with our eyes here on earth. His love can fix any mistake, right any wrong, fill any emptiness, and heal any hurt. He wants to give you all these things now, here on this earth, plus a place in heaven when your time here is done. He longs for you and your loved ones to be united and happy forever with Him, and that's why He gave His life for you. He's reaching out to you with this gift now. Please take His love. Take it today!

You can receive His love and a place in heaven by simply praying this little prayer:

*Dear Jesus, I believe that You love me and died for me, so I can live in heaven for eternity. Please give me Your gift of salvation, help me to get to know You better, and help me to share Your love with others, so they can be happy too. Amen.*

God loves you, and He's looking forward to living with you in heaven for eternity. And so am I. I'll see you there!

MARIA FONTAINE AND HER HUSBAND, PETER AMSTERDAM, HEAD  
THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL. ✨

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## NEW BEGINNING

The nearer my approach to the end, the plainer is the sound of immortal symphonies of worlds which invite me. For half a century I have been translating my thoughts into prose and verse: history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode, and song; all of these I have tried. But I feel I haven't given utterance to the thousandth part of what lies within me. When I go to the grave I can say, as others have said, "My day's work is done." But I cannot say, "My life is done." My work will recommence the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes upon the twilight, but opens upon the dawn.—*Victor Hugo*



# Looking forward

## to heaven

### A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

THE ELEVENTH CHAPTER OF HEBREWS LISTS SOME HEROES AND HEROINES OF FAITH.

One thing these men and women had in common was that they “waited for the city whose builder and maker is God.”<sup>1</sup> Their focus wasn’t on their immediate circumstances, but on the heavenly reward. That’s how they were able to endure the tests and tribulations they went through.<sup>2</sup>

This has practical applications for us. It’s easy to become so weighed down with the concerns of daily living that we lose sight of what’s waiting for us at the end of the road. On the other hand, thinking more about heaven helps us to bear some of the things we have to go through now, so we’re wise to heed the scriptural advice, “Set your mind

on things above, not on things on the earth.”<sup>3</sup>

Find a quiet place for this exercise, outside in nature if possible. You may want to start by reading about heaven from the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22, which give an idea of what is waiting for us. Then think about some of the aspects of heaven, like these:

There will be no tears, pain, sickness, or sorrow (Revelation 21:4).

Heaven is a place of joy (Isaiah 35:10).

We will be reunited with our loved ones (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 7:9).

We will live in a perfect environment (Revelation 21:23).

All of our needs will be filled (Revelation 7:16).

There will be no more death (John 11:25–26).

We will be rewarded for our good works (Matthew 16:27).

We will have a new body that does not bear the disabilities we may have now (Philippians 3:20–21; Luke 24:36–40).

We will meet Jesus face to face and get to know Him as He knows us (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2).

It certainly seems like a good idea to talk about heaven, meditate about heaven and read about heaven, because, after all, that’s where we’re going to spend eternity. It’s an important place—our eternal home. So it’s only natural to want to know what it’s like and what we’re going to be like when we get there.

—DAVID BRANDT BERG✠

1. Hebrews 11:10

2. Hebrews 11:26, 35

3. Colossians 3:2

# Why suffering?



**Q:** *WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING? DOESN'T HE CARE ABOUT US?*

**A:** GOD CERTAINLY DOES CARE! IT HURTS HIM TO SEE US SUFFER AS A RESULT OF OUR OWN WRONG CHOICES OR THE WRONG CHOICES AND ACTIONS OF OTHERS. The Bible tells us, “As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear [reverence] Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”<sup>1</sup>

Jesus, too, can sympathize with our weaknesses, because He was “tempted in every way, just as we are.”<sup>2</sup> He certainly knows what it’s like to suffer, because He was tortured and then crucified for the sins of the world.

Also, the Bible promises that someday all the suffering will come to an end for those who love God. In heaven, God “will wipe away every tear from their

eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”<sup>3</sup>

In the meantime, we should remember that there are benefits to be derived from suffering. For example, it often brings out the sweetness and goodness in people. For those who do not allow themselves to become embittered or hardened by them, sorrow, sacrifice, and sadness can bring out the best: love, tenderness, and concern for others. The Bible says, “We comfort others with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”<sup>4</sup> If we have found God’s love in Jesus, it gives us the desire to share that answer and that love with others, so He can ease their sufferings and help them solve their problems too.

Though we can understand many of the reasons for suffering

through reading God’s Word, we probably won’t know all the answers to this persistent question until we get to heaven. God’s ways are not our ways, and there are some things we won’t understand until we see things as God sees them.<sup>5</sup>

A fitting illustration of this was given by Dr. Handley Moule (1841–1920) when he visited a coalmine immediately after a terrible underground explosion that claimed the lives of the miners inside. At the entrance to the mine was a large crowd that included many of the miners’ wives, children, parents, other relatives, and closest friends.

“It is very difficult for us to understand why God should let such an awful tragedy happen,” he told the grieving crowd, “but I have at home an old bookmark given me by my mother, which I think about at such times. The bookmark is embroidered in silk,



and when I look at the wrong side of it, I see nothing but a tangled mass of threads. It looks like a big mistake. One would think that whoever made it didn't know what she was doing. But when I turn it over and look at the other side, I see there, embroidered beautifully, the words 'GOD IS LOVE.' We are looking at this tragedy today from the wrong side. Someday we shall view it from another standpoint, and we shall understand."

The Bible also tells us, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."<sup>6</sup> With time our suffering takes on a new perspective. Through it we become a little wiser and a little more compassionate toward others who are suffering.

God has a purpose for everything He allows to happen to us, even though we may not always see it right away. We just have to trust God that if we don't understand now, we will later.

And despite our limited knowledge and understanding of some things, there is one thing we can be sure of, and that is His un-failing love.

We will at times be in pain or grieve, but thank God, we are not left hopeless and helpless. "For I am persuaded, that neither death nor life, ... nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."<sup>7</sup> ✠

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1. Psalm 103:13-14

2. Hebrews 4:15 NIV

3. Revelation 21:4

4. 2 Corinthians 1:4

5. Isaiah 55:8-9

6. Psalm 30:5

7. Romans 8:38-39

## FEEDING READING

### Suffering—A Blessing in Disguise?

*God comforts and strengthens us in our suffering.*

John 14:18

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Peter 5:10

*Suffering can teach us important lessons.*

Job 23:10

Romans 5:3-4

*Suffering gives us compassion for others.*

2 Corinthians 1:4

*We should adopt a positive attitude toward suffering.*

John 16:33

Romans 8:28

1 Thessalonians 5:18

*The Lord promises to deliver us from our suffering.*

Psalms 30:5

Psalms 34:19

*There will be no suffering in the world to come.*

Revelation 21:4

Romans 8:18

*In heaven we'll understand why we've suffered on earth.*

1 Corinthians 13:12



# Living hope

BY UDAY KUMAR

I WAS THINKING RECENTLY ABOUT DEATH—HOW IN SPITE OF ALL THE ADVANCES IN MEDICAL SCIENCE, DEATH HAPPENS EVENTUALLY TO EVERY LIVING CREATURE.

I was curious to see what the Bible had to say about this, and found some amazing things.

Death, it turns out, was not part of God's original plan for His creation; it was the result of man's disobedience to God. God had intended for man to live forever, but He could no longer permit that because of man's fallen, sinful nature. Death is the penalty of sin, and it is one we all must suffer. "Through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."<sup>1</sup>

The good news, however, is that the sting of death has been overcome. Jesus Christ conquered death through His resurrection. The Bible calls Jesus' resurrection the "living hope."<sup>2</sup> Because Jesus was raised from the dead, there is the promise that others will be raised too. This will occur at Jesus' second coming, when everyone alive who has accepted Jesus into their hearts will receive new, supernatural bodies, like Jesus' at His resurrection.<sup>3</sup>

And to those believers who have passed on before this event, Jesus promised that death would not be the end but rather the threshold to a new life in the spirit. He said, "Because I live, you will live also."<sup>4</sup> For believers, death is like passing from one room into another and closing the

door. They are set free from the weight and other limitations of their physical bodies and liberated into the boundless world of the spirit.

All around the world, many thousands of people have had what are now commonly termed "near-death experiences." These people died, perhaps following an accident or during a medical procedure, but then were revived. Many of them recalled later that during the time when they were clinically dead or very close to death, they entered the world beyond. There they were overwhelmed with the feeling of being loved by a being of light, which many identified as Jesus or God, and they also saw angels, departed loved ones, and even pets. It was the most wonderful thing they



## PASSING THROUGH

I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God. I want to know one thing—the way to heaven.—*John Wesley*

The world is but a great inn, where we are to stay a night or two, and be gone; what madness is it so to set our heart upon our inn, as to forget our home?—*Thomas Watson*

Leave behind what is simply good in exchange for the eternal.—*Spanish proverb*

Death is graduation from this grade. It's our release, our graduation, our promotion. School is out! We've finished our schooling in this grade, and we pass on to the next one.—*David Brandt Berg*

The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding, lies here. ... Yet the Work itself shall not be lost; for it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by the Author.—*Benjamin Franklin, written at age 22 as a possible epitaph.*

Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all; out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal, a body that death cannot touch.—*Dwight L. Moody*

This is the hope of all ages—that wonderful crystal-golden city described in Revelation chapters 21 and 22, where we shall dwell with God forever. Our eternal home will be a place of such resplendent beauty that it is completely beyond the imagination of man.—*David Brandt Berg*

had ever seen, they said, with a beauty and glory beyond anything they had previously known. One other thing that many of these near-death survivors have in common is that they no longer fear death, for they have experienced, even if only for a moment, the next world.

If we trust in Jesus, we too have a living hope of entering this dazzling new dimension when our present lives are over. There we will enjoy the splendors of heaven for all eternity, without any of the pain or problems we have now. "And God shall wipe away all tears from [our] eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."<sup>5</sup>

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THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN  
INDIA. ✨

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1. Romans 5:12
  2. 1 Peter 1:3
  3. 1 Corinthians 15:51–52
  4. John 14:19
  5. Revelation 21:4



# THE SANCTUARY

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

I see your struggles and hear your calls for help. When you feel all alone, I am there. I feel your heartaches, and wait for you to come to Me in prayer. Come into My sanctuary, into that secret place that you and I can share. There I am able to lift the worries, the cares, and the confusion. There I can restore your feeling of purpose and infuse you with strength to go on.

Life can be a struggle, but you do not have to struggle alone. Many times I have placed burdens in your life that seemed like mountains. They weigh your spirit down and you wonder why I have placed them there. I have not done these things to reprove you or as some sort of punishment.—I have done

them to bring you closer to Me. I know your heart better than anyone else ever could, and love you more dearly.

The problems and obstacles that I allow in your life can be taken two ways: They can make you either bitter or better. When you have found the peace that only I can give, I can then use you as an instrument of My love to comfort others.

Many things in life can seem unfair or even unloving, but when you look at them through My promise of “all things work together for good,” that gives a whole new meaning to things. That promise holds the key to easing any heartache, relieving any problem, or conquering any fear.