

PRAYER STUDY 119

Heaven

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-20

How many heavens?

1. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1*
2. *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell, or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth)- such an one caught up in the third heaven. And I knew such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth)- How he was caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. (2nd Corinthians 12:2-4)*
3. *And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee and stand upright, for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not Daniel; for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Daniel 10:11-13*
4. Therefore, there must be at least three heavens. Most theologians and we at First Love believe the heavens are divided like this:
 - a. **The first or visible heavens** which we see with the naked eye when we go out and look in the sky.
 - b. **The second heaven**, a kind of no man's land (and not visible from the earth) where there is intense spiritual warfare taking place between angels of the Most High God and demonic forces and where Satan and his demonic angels were cast to after their rebellion against God. We are told in Ephesians 6 that we are to wrestle principalities (demons over areas of land), powers (demons over the penal system, educational system, religions, etc.), rulers of the darkness of this world (demons over things like slanted news, ungodly music, pornography and ungodly literature), and against spiritual wickedness in high places (occults, false doctrines, cults). These upper hierarchy

demon forces cannot be cast out. We are told to wrestle them to the ground through intercession. In other words we make their power less operable through the power of prayer.

- c. **The third heaven** which is the paradise of our God. Here God is seated on the throne and Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

The God of Heaven

1. **He speaks to His people:** *The LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven.'"* Exodus 20:22
2. **He listens and forgives:** *Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.* 1st Kings 8:30
3. **He sits on His throne:** *Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around Him on His right and on His left.* 1st Kings 22:19
4. **He feeds His people and gives them water:** *In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.* Nehemiah 9:15
5. **He observes the sons of men:** *The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.* Psalm 14:2
6. **He pronounces judgment:** *From heaven You pronounced judgment, and the land feared and was quiet.* Psalm 76:8
7. **He will punish the powers in the heavens:** *In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.* Isaiah 24:21
8. **His being and name is holy:** *This then is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."* Matthew 6:9
9. **He gives good gifts to His children:** *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!* Matthew 7:11
10. **He reveals things to His children:** *At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden*

these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. Matthew 11:25

11. **He gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him:** *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Luke 11:13*
12. **He is full of wrath towards the ungodly:** *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Romans 1:18*
13. **He is the embodiment of real love:** *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 1st John 4:8*
14. **He shows no favoritism:** *And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. Ephesians 6:9*
15. **He is a faithful Father who does not change:** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17*

Heaven is where we should set our affections(Colossians 3:1-2).

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. KJV

Since you were raised from the dead with Christ, aim at what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth. NCV

You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side. Think about what is up there, not about what is here on earth. CEV

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. NLT

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle

along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from His perspective. The Message

Other special verses on Heaven

1. **Genesis 28:17**-*He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*
2. **Isaiah 14:12**-*How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*
3. **Malachi 3:10**-*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*
4. **Matthew 5:12**-*Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
5. **Matthew 16:19**-*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*
6. **Matthew 18:10**-*See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.*
7. **Luke 10:20**-*However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*
8. **Luke 15:7**-*I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*
9. **Acts 7:49**-*Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? Says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be?*
10. **Acts 7:56**-*"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*
11. **2nd Corinthians 5:1-10 CEV**-*Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever. While we are here on earth, we sigh because we want to live in that heavenly home. We want to put it on like clothes and not be naked.*

These tents we now live in are like a heavy burden, and we groan. But we don't do this just because we want to leave these bodies that will die. It is because we want to change them for bodies that will never die. God is the one who makes all of this possible. He has given us His Spirit to make us certain that He will do it. So always be cheerful. As long as we are in these bodies, we are away from the Lord. But we live by faith, not by what we see. We should be cheerful, because we would rather leave these bodies and be at home with the Lord. But whether we are at home with the Lord or away from Him, we still try our best to please Him. After all, Christ will judge each of us for the good or the bad that we do while living in these bodies.

12. **Philippians 2:10**-...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.
13. **Philippians 3:14**-I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
14. **Philippians 3:20**-But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.
15. **Hebrews 11:13 & 16**-These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth...But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly; wherefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He hath prepared for them a city.

The New Jerusalem Revelation 21:1-8

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning

and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all of this, and I will be his God, and he will be My son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

GOING HOME
Bill and Gloria Gaither

Many times in my childhood when we'd traveled so far,
By nightfall how weary I'd grown.
Father's arms would slip 'round me so gently He'd say,
"My child, we're going home."

Now the twilight is fading and the day soon shall end;
I get homesick the farther I roam;
But my Father has led me each step of the way,
And now we're going home.

Oh, my heart gets so heavy and I'm longing to see
All my loved ones and friends I have known;
Ev'ry step draws me nearer the land of my dreams.
Praise God, I'm going home.

CHORUS
Going home, I'm going home;
There's nothing to hold me here.
Well, I've caught a glimpse of that heavenly land;
Praise God, I'm going home.