



Can I Ask That?

Week 1

John 14:1-4 (NIV)

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

UNCERTAINTY today can have a ripple into eternity tomorrow.

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

Matthew 7:11 (ESV)

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV)

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Heaven is <u>AWESOME</u>. Hell is <u>NOT</u>.

1 John 5:10-12 (NIV)

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

SO WHAT?

Don't forfeit what you want MOST for what you want NOW.

Matthew 5:12 (ESV)

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven...

Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal

Luke 15:7 (NLT)

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

John 11:25-26 (NIV) ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I

am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

NOTES:

"The fact that our heart yearns for something Earth can't supply is proof that Heaven must be our home."

- C. S. Lewis







Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

- :: Take a moment to pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word today.
- :: Read John 14:1-6.
 - :: What initially stands out to you in this passage?
 - :: What is most significant to you about Jesus' words?
 - :: What does Jesus tell his disciples to do in order to not be troubled?
 - :: How does believing in Jesus give peace in the storms of life?
 - :: What do you need to do to live more fully in that peace in your life?

If you know you're going to go to Heaven...

- :: Reread Philippians 3:12-14.
- :: What does Paul model for us by His example and words here?
- :: Identify tangible ways we 'forget what is behind' & 'strain ahead'?
- :: What is one thing you need to do this week in light of eternity?

If you aren't sure you're going to go to Heaven...

- :: Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." What are the implications of that reality for you?
 - :: What do you need to believe or receive in light of what he said?
 - :: What do you need to do this week in light of eternity?
- :: Share that with at least 1 person who can pray for you and support you in it.

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) <u>Admitting</u> that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize you as Savior; and I choose to respond to you as my Risen LORD.

Help me to follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV]. Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – September 8 & 9, 2018