



9 PRAYERS TO GAIN A

Heart for Heaven

BY CINDI MCMENAMIN

Crosswalk

How often do you think about heaven?

If we're honest, most of us might only think of it when a loved one dies or when we experience a brush with death ourselves. Yet, Scripture tells us to fix our minds on heaven because it is our real home. We are to long for it and live with a daily anticipation of it.

You and I tend to be preoccupied by whatever possesses our hearts—a love interest, a child or grandchild, a career, or attaining financial security through success and notoriety. Yet, what if a desire for heaven—our true home—were to take the place of earthly loves that have distracted or stolen our hearts?

Colossians 3:1-2 instructs: “Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” (NIV). In other words, we are to let heaven fill our thoughts.

In order for our minds to be fixed on heaven and continually thinking about “things above, not on earthly things,” we must fix our hearts on heaven and desire it more than this earth.

Here are nine short prayers to help you gain a heart for heaven.

1. A Prayer to Prioritize Jesus Above All

Lord, Your Word instructs me to dwell on heaven, but so many things on earth seem more important at the moment. Help me to realize that You are not only my Provider and Protector, but my Priority as well. Lord, the very word priority means “above all else,” so I can only have one. Yet my mind and heart seem to think I can have several. So many desires compete for my attention and affections, but help me to have a heart devoted to You alone so that I long for the day You and I will meet face to face in Your presence. Lord, give me a growing desire to spend time with You so that heaven will be an extension of our intimacy – a glorious reunion when You and I pick up where we left off here on earth. Bind my heart from wandering and seeking other loves. May being with You become my greatest longing so that I have no regrets about leaving this earth when it’s my time... only a longing to finally be with the One I love most. In the sweet and worthy name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

2. A Prayer to Be Preoccupied with the Lord and His Kingdom

Lord God, may my heart reflect that of King David’s when he sang: “One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27:4). Father, may I be so preoccupied with You and with Your dwelling place that I long to be where You are and to be surrounded by Your beauty. As You called David a man after Your own heart (Acts 13:22), may You see my heart longing for You as well, willing to “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles” and run with perseverance the race marked out for me, fixing my eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV). Lord, may all I do be for the sake of our eternal fellowship and my eternal—rather than temporary—rewards. I ask this in the name of Jesus, whose strength enables me. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

3. A Prayer to Wisely Invest in God's Kingdom

Lord, thank You for all that you have given me, but help me to remember that none of it is truly mine. I am just a steward of what belongs to You. Help me to invest wisely in what benefits Your kingdom, not live and spend like this earth is all there is. As You commanded, help me to store up treasures in heaven where moth and rust can't destroy, and where thieves can't break in and steal (Matthew 6:19-20). You, Lord Jesus, have said that where my treasure is, there will my heart be also (verse 21). I want to invest in heaven, so my heart will be there. Show me ways to do that so that my spending, saving, and investing are evidence that You and Your kingdom are my greatest treasure.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

4. *A Prayer to Appreciate Beauty and the New Earth That Is Imminent*

Lord, it's easy to complain about what isn't right on this earth: the injustices, the blight, the disease, and the consequences of sin on the earth. But help me to appreciate all the beauty that You have created, that gives me a glimpse of the amazing restoration of all that is to come. When I see a sunset, walk near a lake or stream, taste fresh fruit, or notice the beauty of untouched nature, may it give me a greater longing for when all will be restored, and this earth will be perfect and unblemished again as it was when you first created it. Give me a heart for Paradise restored. Give me a greater longing for the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1-5). In the beautiful, redeeming name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

5. A Prayer of Anticipation for Reuniting with Loved Ones

Lord, I admit that sometimes I only think of heaven when I think of my loved ones who were in a relationship with You and have gone before me into Your presence. Yet, You knew that we needed a living hope that life would go on from here, and You knew the ache of being without our loved ones could be unbearable without that living hope made possible by Your death and resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). Lord, thank You that my loved ones who trusted in You and are gone now are not really gone. I praise You that

I will see them again in Your presence at the great reunion in the air or when I pass from this earth into Your everlasting arms. Thank You for the living hope that death here is not the end, and may my remembrance of loved ones who were in relationship with You ignite in me a greater anticipation to see them –and You—in heaven one day soon. I pray this in the name of Jesus, who made that reunion possible. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

6. A Prayer for Work on Earth That Will Remain in Heaven

Heavenly Father, it is easy—and tempting—to invest my time and energy in work here on earth that will not mean anything in heaven one day. Lord, give me discernment to know what will last the test of fire and continue on into eternity, and what will burn like hay, wood, and straw. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). Help me to lay a foundation on Jesus Christ by doing all for His gain and glory. Help me to do my work heartily as unto You and not for others, so that all I do will be an eternal investment in Your kingdom for Your glory (Colossians 3:23).

Help me to keep my eyes on eternal rewards, rather than earthly recognition and success, and to number my days so that I can gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12). I ask these things in Your precious name, Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

7. A Prayer for the Unhindered Relationship with God That Is to Come

Lord Jesus, when it comes to our relationship, you are the Perfect One, and I seem to blow it all the time. Yet, the day is coming when there will be no more restraints in my relationship with You—no more physical obstacles, no more sin to interfere in our communication and intimacy, no more weakness on my part for persevering in a relationship with a Holy God. Thank You that a day is coming when I will be able to know and experience You to the fullest. May that be my greatest longing, my only ambition, the reward and portion I seek above any other. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who is my portion and my very great reward. Amen.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

8. *A Prayer to Gain a Greater Understanding of Sin's Destructiveness*

Lord, forgive me for the times sin becomes commonplace, and I don't give it much thought. Help me to see it as You do—offensive and grievous to Your Spirit. Give me a greater sensitivity toward my own sin—and the sin I see around me—and how it offends You and opposes Your perfect nature, so I will long to be where there is no sin, in me or anyone else, and everything will be restored and made right. Until that day, help me to extend grace toward others and pray for them, knowing my sin is just as grievous to You, and may I be one who can lead and direct as many people toward You as possible before I leave this earth.

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

PRAYER FOR MYSELF

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

9. A Prayer for a Renewed Perspective of “Home”

Lord, may I live with a longing in my heart that says “There’s no place like home” and may my concept of home be heaven, where You dwell. May my heart reflect David’s when he penned Psalm 84 and sang of Your holy dwelling:

How lovely are Your dwelling places,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
The bird also has found a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.
How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!

They are ever praising You...
For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord gives grace and glory;
No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
How blessed is the man who trusts in You!
(verses 1-4, 10-12).

Prayer Journal

DATE _____

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PRAYER FOR OTHERS

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AUTHOR BIO:

Cindi McMenamin is a national speaker, Bible teacher, certified writing coach, and award-winning writer who helps women and couples strengthen their relationship with God and others. She is also a mother, a pastor's wife who has been married 37 years, and the author of 19 books, including [When Women Walk Alone](#) (more than 160,000 copies sold), [The New Loneliness: Nurturing Meaningful Connections When You Feel Isolated](#), and [The New Loneliness Devotional: 50 Days to a Closer Connection with God](#). For more on her speaking ministry, coaching services for writers, and books to strengthen your soul, marriage, and parenting, see her website: www.StrengthForTheSoul.com.

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