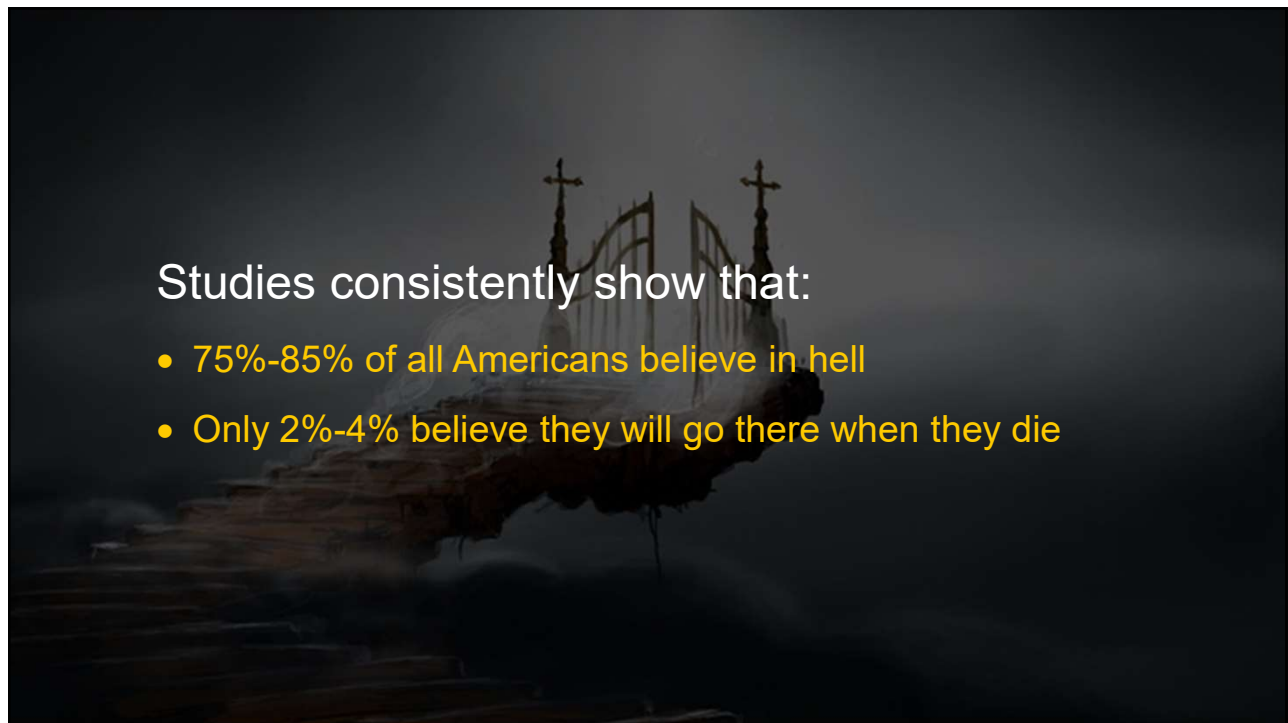




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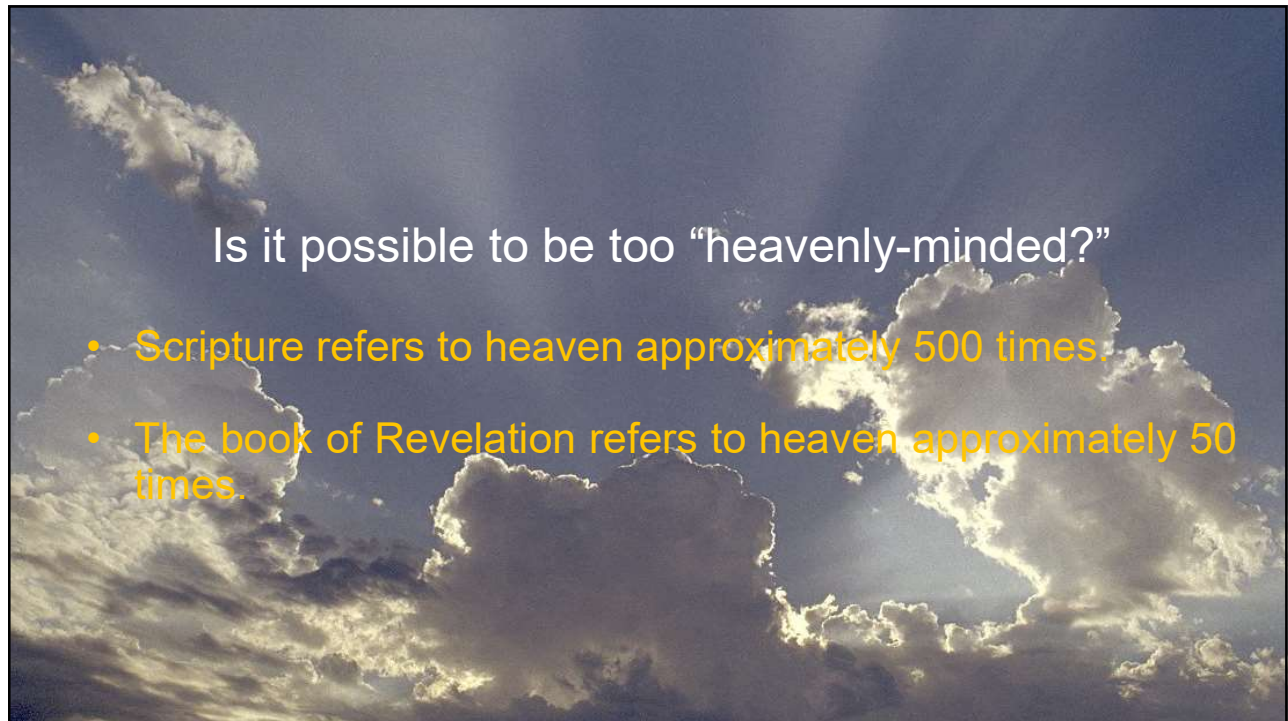
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What makes heaven so heavenly?

- Things not there
- Things new there
- Those now there

3



Is it possible to be too “heavenly-minded?”

- Scripture refers to heaven approximately 500 times.
- The book of Revelation refers to heaven approximately 50 times.

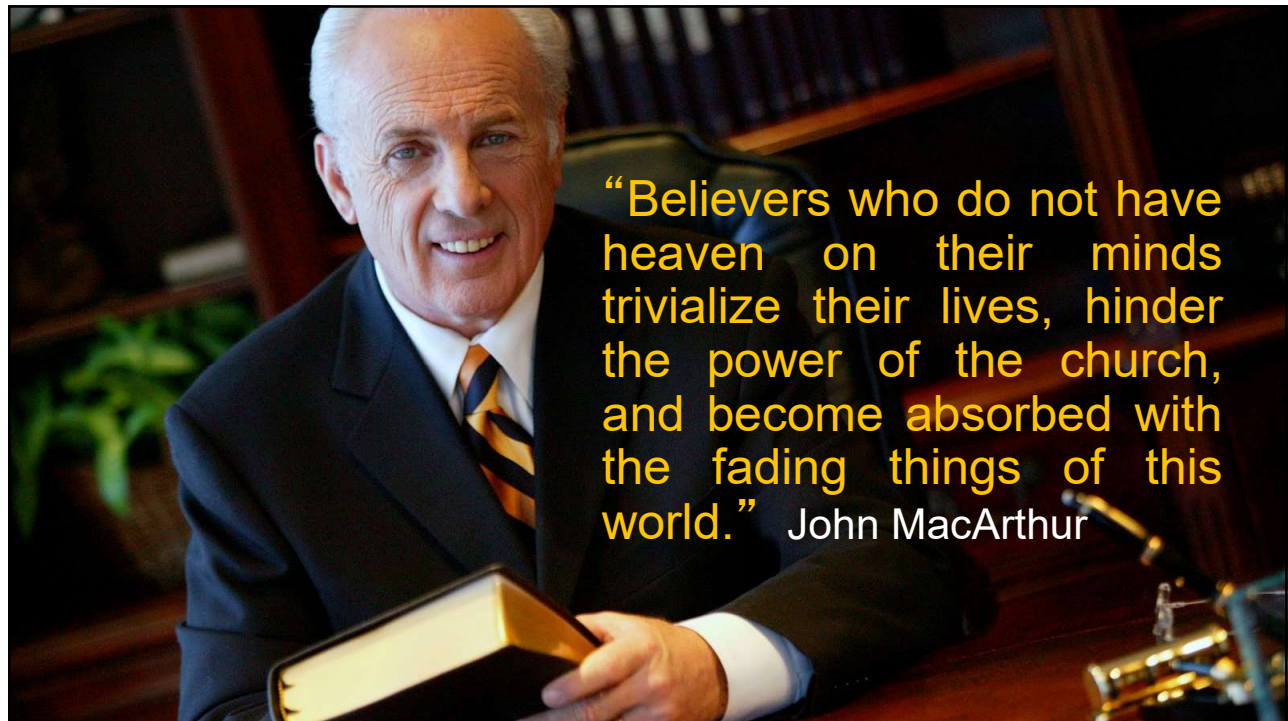
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1. Believers have always been preoccupied with heaven

Ps 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

Heb 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 and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

5



“Believers who do not have heaven on their minds trivialize their lives, hinder the power of the church, and become absorbed with the fading things of this world.” John MacArthur

6

2. Believes cannot allow themselves to be too preoccupied with earth

Js 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

7

3. Scripture gives many reasons why we should focus on heaven

Col 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

8

- **This world is not our home**

1 Chron 29:15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.

Ps 119:19 I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me.

1 Pet 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

9

- **Heaven is better**

Phil 1:21,23 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

- **Believers' names are written in heaven**

Lk 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

10

- **Believers who have finished their earthly races are there**

Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,

- **Believers' inheritances are in heaven**

1 Pet 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you

- **Believers' rewards are there**

Mt 5:12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

11

- **Believers' treasures are there**

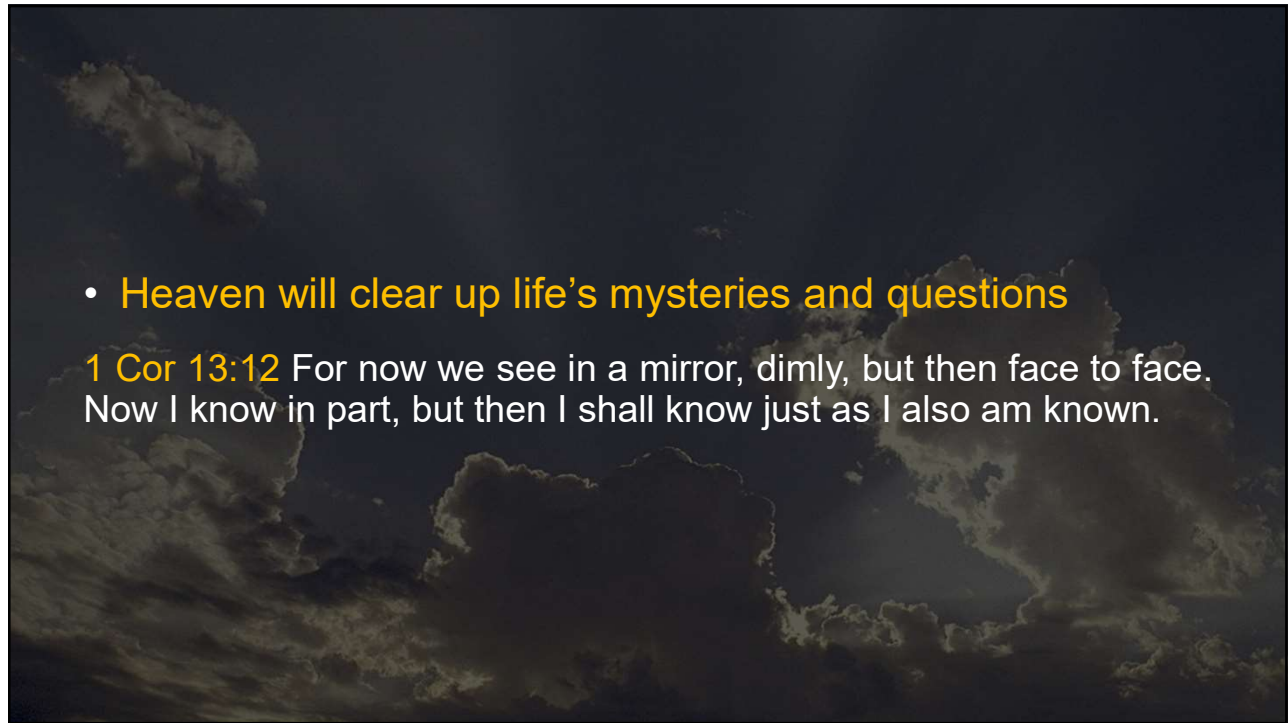
Mt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

- **Believers will have their glorified bodies there**

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Phil 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

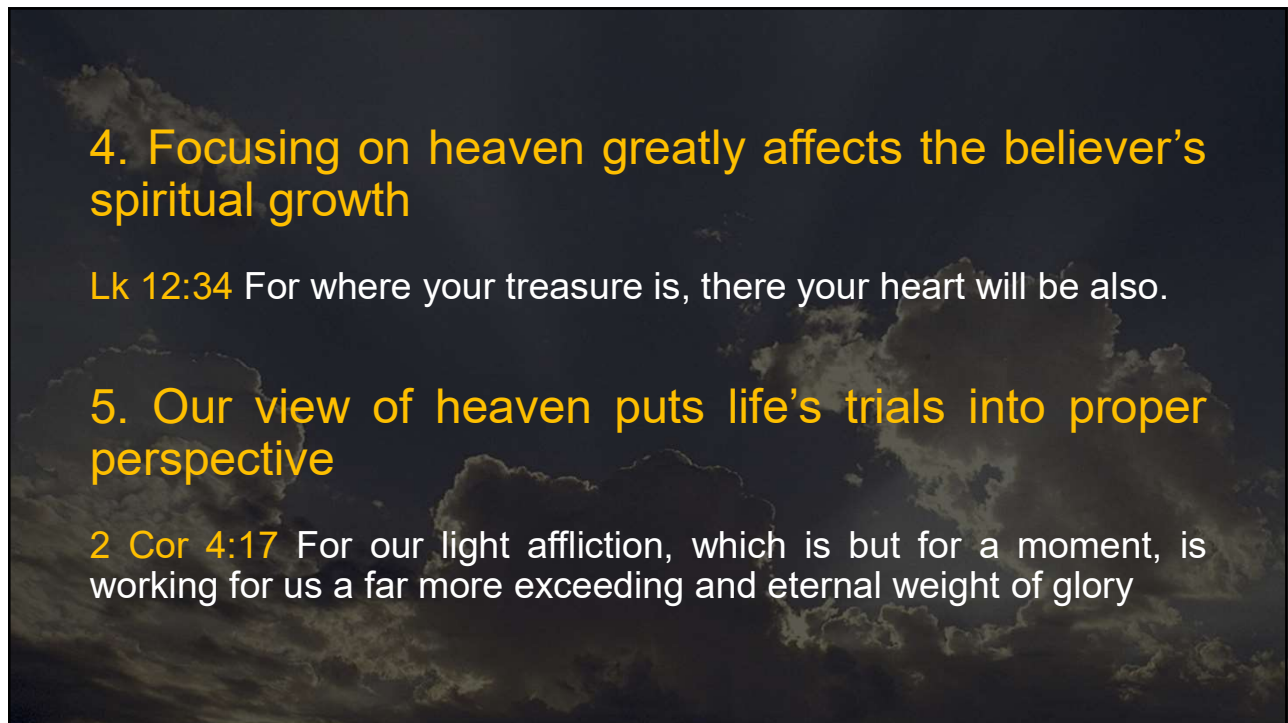
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- **Heaven will clear up life's mysteries and questions**

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13



4. Focusing on heaven greatly affects the believer's spiritual growth

Lk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

5. Our view of heaven puts life's trials into proper perspective

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

14

6. Those who set their minds on heaven are less likely to be ensnared by temptations

Rom 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

1 Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Pet 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

15

7. Scripture mentions 3 heavens

2 Cor 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

- **The atmosphere:** Gen 1:20, Ezek 38:20
- **Outer space:** Gen 15:5, 22:17, Ps 8:3, Is 13:10
- **The dwelling place of God:** Job 22:12, Ps 14:2, Mt 5:34, Acts 7:55, Heb 9:24, 1 Pet 3:22

16

8. Heaven is always up in relation to the earth

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

2 Cor 12:2 such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

17

9. Heaven is a real place, not a state of spiritual consciousness

- **People have gone there in bodies** – Enoch (Gen 5:24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), Jesus (Acts 1:9)
- **Jesus said He would prepare a place for believers** –

Jn 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

18

10. God's throne is in heaven

Rev 4:1,2 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. ... ² and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.