

Heaven and Earth  
Jessica Henderson  
Comunidad de Zoe  
Costa Rica

## Heaven and Earth

I wanted to talk with you all this morning about heaven and earth. As we grow up in the Lord, there is often a tension in our hearts between seeing Christ and yet still living on this earth and having so many natural cares and concerns.

Where is our home? This is an important question. Is the earth my home? Is my family my home? No. Christ has become my home. He is our dwelling place. He is where we've been brought into. Now, that's a reality whether we see it or not. We *have* been placed in Christ, but now we have this choice – where will we abide? Will we abide in Him and live from His eternal perspective? Or will our hearts and minds remain wrapped up in the earth and in this natural life.

There are times when this reality is so real in my heart. I'm sure you have had times where you are seeing the Lord and the earth just seems to fade away. Maybe that view lasts for a minute, or an hour, or a day. But that view of Christ is the true view that He always sees. And there is always, *always* a choice to live in that view. It doesn't just happen automatically. We must always choose to look to Him. If our hearts are not looking to Him and seeing Him as our Home, then we're just looking to ourselves and the earth. I'm sure you've had times when you're really abiding in the Lord, and then that view slips away and your eyes are back on the earth. That's because you must always be choosing to look to Him. The earth is always pulling at our souls and demanding our attention.

I had this experience last week. I realized that I had been feeling blind for a few days and that I was caring so much about natural things. My heart was hard and I wasn't seeing Truth at all. I could feel this wall of "self" inside me – the huge wall in my heart that just seemed to big and strong to get around. I thought about this and wrestled with it for a few hours, and then finally decided to give up and turn my heart to the Lord. Immediately He softened my heart and broke down the wall of self. I cried and was so happy to be able to see Him and see my union with Him. The rest of that night I was busy doing many things, but it didn't matter what I was doing because the eyes of my heart were turned toward the Lord and I could see my home in Him. This is abiding. This is what it means to see Him as our Life.

The Lord is always wanting to show us the division between heaven and earth, between Christ and everything else. Many of you have felt that division being worked in your hearts, and I know it can be painful. It's not that Christ is taking things away from us. He's not taking away our family, or money, or jobs, but he's showing us their place. He's showing us that there is only Christ – and His Body – and then on the other side of that division there is everything else. He wants to make that division more clear.

Last week Barbara was reading I Corinthians 15 and verse 19 really stood out to me: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." In this life only. Are we only hoping that Christ will touch this earthly life? Do we only want Him to work in the natural? We have been seated with Christ in heavenly places, so why are we hoping to see Him work in the natural realm? Back in Ohio I used to teach children's Sunday school a lot, and I remember one of the lessons I did with the little kids was about knowing Christ and looking for Christ where He could be found. I gave a bunch of silly examples like if

you're trying to find a whale, would you look in the fridge? Or if you're trying to find a grasshopper, would you look in the bathtub? The kids thought this was really fun, but then we talked about how God dwells in heaven, and we live in Him. We can't look for Him on the earth. We must look for Him where He can be found. He may touch the earth and do miracles and things like that, but it's only an attempt to draw people's hearts to Him. We can't know Him that way. We can know Him because we have been made *one* with Him, because we live in Him.

Ask the Lord to show you the division of the cross. We don't have anything of value to loose – only imaginations about what we think is real. Only false hopes that bring disappointment. Ask Christ to reveal Himself to you as your Home, as your Dwelling Place, that you will see yourself seated with Him in heavenly places. He is always eager to answer a hungry heart that wants to see Him.