



As Christ-followers, our eternity in His presence offers something much better than anything available in our journey through time. But we live in a broken world where evil exists. When horrific things happen, along with difficulties and strife, we are promised something far better—and that is our incentive to accept our God-assignments in this present setting and circumstance. You see, if we don't believe there is something better ahead of us, we will never make the sacrifice of serving and honoring the Lord—because there *is* a sacrifice in serving the Lord. Frankly, God's promise of something better for us with Him in eternity is our motivation to turn away from selfish and carnal choices and put God's purposes and priorities ahead of our own. Let's focus our attention, set our objectives, prioritize our time, and direct our resources to align our hearts as never before with God's purposes!

TAKE NOTE ...

***What are some ways it costs you to sacrificially serve others? Why is it worth it?**

THRONE ROOM

Isaiah 6:1–4 *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.*

GENERATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Hebrews 11:40 *God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

SOMETHING BEYOND TIME

1 Corinthians 15:19 *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*

***Share a time in your life when discontentment took root. How did you recognize it? How did you find contentment?**

BEST IS STILL AHEAD

Philippians 1:23–24 *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

CROWNS?

2 Timothy 4:6–8 *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

JOY AHEAD!

Hebrews 12:2–3 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

***What may the Lord be asking you to change, do differently, or pray about, as a result of choosing to honor Him?**

THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES

2 Timothy 4:9–10 *Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.*

John 3:19 *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

THE GLORY OF OUR LORD

Matthew 16:27 *For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*

Matthew 24:30 *"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.*

Matthew 25:31-33 *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

Matthew 26:63–64 *But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

DIFFICULTIES & SUFFERING

Romans 8:17–18 *Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

1 Peter 4:13–16 *But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

***In what areas of your life do experience or notice spiritual opposition? In what ways could you be bolder in your faith?**

THINGS ABOVE & THINGS BELOW

Colossians 3:2–14 *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

***Think of someone who is totally committed to working for God's Kingdom. How would you describe them? What character traits do they have?**

PRAYER

Father, we need Your help. Give us a vision beyond time and a glimpse of Your eternal Kingdom. Forgive us for when we've been embarrassed, ashamed, quiet, distracted, or allowed the ungodly to establish our patterns and goals, and for when we've looked to them to celebrate our victories. Lord, we look to You today. We want to be pleasing and upright before You so You find joy in our choices. Holy Spirit, identify anything that hinders, limits, or distracts us—help us recognize and renounce those things. May we truly give You our best and fulfill all You created us for—so when we step out of time and stand with those who have preceded us, we can celebrate the faithfulness of our God with joy and great enthusiasm. We ask all of this in Jesus' name, amen.