



LIFE PROMISES
for ETERNITY

inspirational thoughts and verses



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Eternal Promises

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your love, O LORD, endures forever.

PSALM 138:8

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Our Desire Is God's Idea

Charles Spurgeon expressed this perspective on death: “To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labour, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes.”¹

What God made us to desire, and therefore what we *do* desire if we admit it, is exactly what he promises to those who follow Jesus Christ: a resurrected life in a resurrected body, with the resurrected Christ on a resurrected Earth. Our desires correspond precisely to God's plans. It's not that we want something, so we engage in wishful thinking that what we want exists. It's the opposite—the reason we want it is precisely because God has planned for it to exist. Resurrected people living in a resurrected universe isn't our idea—it's *God's*.

Eternal Promises

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

GENESIS 2:7

The Spirit of God has made me;
the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

JOB 33:4

Let Your Heavenly Imagination Soar

As human beings, whom God made to be both physical and spiritual, we are not designed to live in a non-physical realm—indeed, we are incapable of even imagining such a place (or, rather, *non*-place). An incorporeal state is not only unfamiliar to our experience, it is also incompatible with our God-given constitution. We are not, as Plato supposed, merely spiritual beings temporarily encased in bodies.

Adam did not become a “living being”—the Hebrew word *nephesh*—until he was both body *and* spirit (Genesis 2:7). We are physical beings as much as we are spiritual beings. That’s why our bodily resurrection is essential to endow us with eternal righteous humanity, setting us free from sin, the Curse, and death.

We cannot anticipate or desire what we cannot imagine. That’s why, I believe, God has given us glimpses of Heaven in the Bible—to fire up our imaginations and kindle a desire for Heaven in our hearts.

Eternal Promises

The LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

GENESIS 2:8-9

God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out.

He created the earth and everything in it.
He gives breath to everyone,
life to everyone who walks the earth.

ISAIAH 42:5, NLT

Hinting at What's to Come

Scripture provides us with a substantial amount of information, direct and indirect, about the world to come, with enough detail to help us envision it, but not so much as to make us think we can completely wrap our minds around it. I believe that God expects us to use our imagination, even as we recognize its limitations and flaws. If God didn't want us to imagine what Heaven will be like, he wouldn't have told us as much about it as he has.

In order to get a picture of Heaven—which will one day be centered on the New Earth—you don't need to look up at the clouds; you simply need to look around you and imagine what all this would be like without sin and death and suffering and corruption.

Eternal Promises

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

PSALM 8:3-4

How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

PSALM 104:24

Get Ready to Marvel

When I anticipate my first glimpse of Heaven, I remember the first time I went snorkeling. I saw countless fish of every shape, size, and color. And just when I thought I'd seen the most beautiful fish, along came another even more striking. Etched in my memory is a certain sound—the sound of a gasp going through my rubber snorkel as my eyes were opened to that breathtaking underwater world.

I imagine our first glimpse of Heaven will cause us to similarly gasp in amazement and delight. That initial gasp will likely be followed by many more as we continually encounter new sights in that endlessly wonderful place. And that will be just the beginning, because we'll not see our real eternal home—the New Earth—until after the resurrection of the dead. And though we can imagine wonderful things, our new home will be better by far.

Eternal Promises

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He set them in place for ever and ever;
he gave a decree that will never pass away. . . .

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

PSALM 148:5-6, 13

Blessed is the man [whose] . . . delight is in the law of
the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

PSALM 1:1-3

Look Around, Then Envision More

Look out a window. Take a walk. Talk with your friend. Use your God-given skills to paint or draw or build a shed or write a book. But imagine Earth—all of it—in its original condition. The happy dog with the wagging tail. The flowers unwilted, the grass undying, the blue sky without pollution. People smiling and joyful. If you're not in a particularly beautiful place, close your eyes and envision the most beautiful place you've ever been—complete with palm trees, raging rivers, jagged mountains, waterfalls, or snowdrifts.

Think of friends or family members who loved Jesus and are with him now. Picture them with you, walking together. All of you have powerful bodies, stronger than those of an Olympic decathlete. You are laughing, playing, talking, and reminiscing. You reach up into a tree to pick an apple or orange. You take a bite. It's so sweet that it's startling. You've never tasted anything so good. That's Heaven—on Earth. And it's the blood-bought promise of God!

Eternal Promises

My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

PSALM 84:2

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 PETER 5:10

Jesus Awaits Your Arrival

You see someone coming toward you. It's Jesus, with a big smile on his face. You fall to your knees in worship. He pulls you up and embraces you. At last, you're with the person you were made for, in the place you were made to be.

“Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1). This is a direct command to set our hearts on Heaven. And to make sure we don't miss the importance of a heaven-centered life, the next verse says, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” God commands us to set our hearts and minds on Heaven.

To long for Christ is to long for Heaven, for that is where we'll be with him. God's people are “longing for a better country” (Hebrews 11:16). We cannot set our eyes on Christ without setting our eyes on Heaven, and we cannot set our eyes on Heaven without setting our eyes on Christ.

Eternal Promises

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

1 PETER 4:7

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, . . . let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 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.

HEBREWS 12:1-2



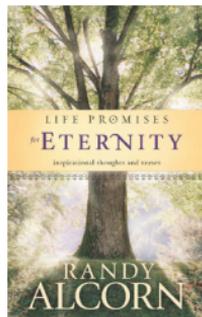
eternal perspective ministries

with author Randy Alcorn

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About Randy Alcorn

Randy is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries and the best-selling author of over 50 books (over nine million in print) including *Heaven*, *The Treasure Principle*, and the Gold Medallion winner *Safely Home*.



About Eternal Perspective Ministries

Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to teaching principles of God's Word and assisting the church in ministering to the unreached, unfed, unborn, uneducated, and unsupported people around the world. You can order all of Randy's books and products through EPM's online store at www.epm.org.