

“Bringing Heaven down to Earth”

Summary

As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we're reminded that our calling is not just to wait for heaven, but to bring heaven to earth. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to seek God's kingdom and will 'on earth as it is in heaven.' This powerful message challenges us to be the light in a world covered by darkness, to shine brightly in the seven mountains of influence - media, family, arts, economy, religion, education, and government. We're encouraged to see the shaking in the world as God's way of drawing people into His kingdom and purifying His church. The imagery of the flood in Noah's time is used to illustrate an impending spiritual outpouring, where the depths within us will break up and the windows of heaven will open.

Main Points – Bringing Heaven to Earth

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the concept of Christians being called to bring heaven to earth rather than waiting to go to heaven. Pastor Eric Meyer emphasizes the importance of the church influencing various aspects of society, likened to "seven mountains of influence." He discusses the idea of God shaking both the world and the church to prepare for a great spiritual awakening and outpouring. The sermon also touches on end-times prophecies, interpreting them as the wicked being removed first, contrary to some popular interpretations. Pastor Eric concludes by encouraging us to rely on God's power rather than our own efforts to live a godly life.

Key Points:

- The church is called to bring heaven to earth, not just wait to go to heaven
- Christians should influence the "seven mountains" of society: media, family, arts and entertainment, economy, religion, education, and government
- God is shaking the world to bring people into His kingdom and shaking the church to remove worldliness
- End-times prophecies suggest the wicked will be removed first, not the righteous
- God is preparing for a great outpouring of His Spirit that will transform the church
- Believers should rely on God's power (thy will) rather than their own efforts (my will) to live godly lives
- The church is being built up to its full potential in Christ

Scripture References:

- Matthew 5:5
- Isaiah 60:1-2
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
- Matthew 24:37-41
- Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43
- Malachi 3:1-4
- Romans 7:18
- Romans 8:1-4
- Luke 1:28-35

Stories:

- Pastor Eric's experience with his son chewing goat meat at a farmer's market
- A dream about Christmas decorations at Rob's house, interpreted as a sign of "Christmas in July"
- The story of Noah and the flood, used as an analogy for the coming spiritual outpouring
- The Annunciation to Mary, used to illustrate how God's power works through believers

Small Group Study Guide – Bringing Heaven to Earth

Key Takeaways:

1. The church is called to bring heaven to earth, not just wait to go to heaven.
2. God is shaking everything that can be shaken to bring people into His kingdom.
3. The wicked will be removed, and the righteous will inherit the earth.
4. God is preparing His church for a great outpouring of His Spirit.
5. Walking in God's will (spirit) rather than our own will (flesh) is crucial.
6. Relying on God, not our own efforts, is the key to spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Eric mentioned "crossing over the Jordan" as bringing heaven to earth. What does this mean to you personally? How can we actively participate in bringing God's kingdom to earth?
2. Discuss the concept of the "seven mountains of influence." Which area do you feel called to impact, and how?
3. How do you interpret the idea that "darkness doesn't stand a chance in the light"? How can we be more effective "light" in our daily lives?
4. The sermon touched on end-times events. How does this perspective differ from what you've heard before? How does it affect your view of the future?
5. Reflect on the statement: "It's not by trying. It's by relying." How can we shift from self-effort to relying more on God in our spiritual lives?
6. Pastor Eric spoke about God building His church. What do you think this looks like in practice? How can we participate in this process?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area in your life where you've been relying on your own efforts. This week, consciously shift to relying on God in that area.
2. Choose one of the "seven mountains of influence" and brainstorm ways you can make a positive impact in that area this month.
3. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas where you've been walking in your own will rather than His. Journal about what He shows you.

4. Practice "bringing heaven to earth" each day this week.
5. Reflect on areas where you feel "behind" or overwhelmed. Surrender these to God, trusting that He will "catch you up" in His timing.
6. Set aside time to worship focusing on God's power and coming glory.

Scripture for Meditation:

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." - Isaiah 60:1

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for Your word and the reminder that You are building Your church. Help us to rely on You completely, to walk in Your will, and to be effective in bringing Your kingdom to earth. Prepare us for the great outpouring of Your Spirit, and use us to impact the world around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Bringing Heaven to Earth

How can we as individuals and as a church bring 'heaven to earth' in practical ways, as mentioned in the sermon?

What does it mean to you personally to be 'salt and light' in today's world, and how can we avoid being 'dimly lit' as Christians?

The sermon mentions the 'seven mountains of influence'. How can Christians effectively engage with and impact these areas of society?

How do you interpret the concept of being 'caught up' as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, and what comfort can we draw from this passage?

The speaker presents a different perspective on who is 'taken' and who is 'left' in end times prophecy. How does this interpretation challenge or align with your understanding of these scriptures?

What does it mean for Jesus to come 'in his church' before coming 'for his church', and how might this affect our preparation as believers?

How can we cultivate a spirit of 'relying' on God rather than 'trying' in our own strength, as the sermon suggests?

The sermon speaks of a coming move of God where 'no flesh survives'. What might this look like in practice, and how can we prepare our hearts for such a transformation?

How does the analogy of 'my will' as flesh and 'thy will' as spirit help us understand the struggle between our human nature and God's desires for us?

The speaker anticipates 'the greatest outpouring creation has ever seen'. What role do you believe individual believers and the church as a whole play in ushering in this outpouring?

Scriptures – Bringing Heaven to Earth

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon](#):

1. Matthew 6:10 (Lord's Prayer - "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven")
2. Matthew 5:5 ("The meek shall inherit the earth")
3. Isaiah 60:1-2
4. Ephesians 4:11-13
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
6. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
7. Matthew 24:37-41
8. Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43 (Parable of the Wheat and Tares)
9. Proverbs 2:21-22
10. Proverbs 10:30
11. Psalm 37:9-11
12. Malachi 3:1-4
13. Genesis 7:11 (Noah's flood)
14. Romans 7:18
15. Romans 8:1-4
16. Luke 1:28-35 (Annunciation to Mary)

Devotional – Bringing Heaven to Earth

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: Bringing Heaven to Earth

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13, Matthew 5:5

Devotional: Jesus taught us to pray "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This radical prayer isn't about escaping to heaven, but inviting God's reign into our present reality. As "the meek shall inherit the earth," we're called to be agents of heavenly transformation right where we are. Today, reflect on how you can bring heaven to your workplace, home, or community. What would it look like to embody God's love, justice, and peace in your everyday interactions? Ask God to use you as a vessel for His kingdom purposes.

Day 2: Shining in the Darkness

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-2, Matthew 5:14-16

Devotional: In a world often shrouded in darkness, we're called to "arise and shine." The light of Christ within us is meant to illuminate the shadows around us. Consider areas in your life or society where darkness seems prevalent. How can you let God's light shine through you in those places? Remember, even a small flame can dispel deep darkness. Pray for courage to stand out and be a beacon of hope, love, and truth in a world desperate for light.

Day 3: Transformation Through the Spirit

Reading: Romans 8:1-6, Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: The struggle between our flesh (self-will) and God's Spirit is ongoing, but victory is possible through Christ. Paul reminds us that walking in the Spirit leads to life and peace. Today, consciously surrender your will to God's. When faced with decisions or temptations, pause and ask, "Am I following my will or God's will?" Practice relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance rather than your own strength. Thank God for His transforming power that enables us to live in freedom and righteousness.

Day 4: Preparing for Christ's Return

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 24:36-44

Devotional: The promise of Jesus' return brings both comfort and urgency to our faith. While we don't know the day or hour, we're called to live in constant readiness. How would your priorities shift if you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow? Use this perspective to evaluate your current focus and activities. Are you investing in things of eternal value? Pray for wisdom to live each day with purpose, sharing God's love and preparing your heart for His coming.

Day 5: Joining God's Refining Work

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7

Devotional: God's refining process in our lives, though often challenging, produces something beautiful and valuable. Like a refiner purifying precious metal, God works to remove impurities from us. Reflect on difficult seasons you've experienced. How have you seen God use those times to shape and purify you? Thank Him for His patient work in your life. Ask for grace to cooperate with His refining process, trusting that the end result will be worth the temporary discomfort.