

“This Land I Love”
Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16
Independence Day Weekend, 2026
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Question: Have you ever wished you could hit the pause button and freeze-frame a moment because you knew it would never happen again?

- Watching your little children play in the backyard, sitting around the dinner table with your family, holding your newborn for the very first time, your wedding day, watching fireworks with your grandchildren, a vacation where life felt exactly as it should, an ordinary evening that you didn't realize would become extraordinary... or, maybe something else? _____
- The sad thing is that we can't freeze-frame a moment and live there forever in perpetual _____. (Eccl 3:11)

Here's what I'm getting at. Every beautiful moment is a preview that whispers the same truth: You were made for more than what this world can offer.

The author of the book of Hebrews in the Bible... uses the metaphor of _____ (dirt, trees, rocks, etc.) to drive the same point home.

*It's okay to love this land, America. Yet, there is a _____
(Rom 5:5 - NKJV) available for a better land. Eternally better.*

Let's learn all about this in our main passage: Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

*The big idea behind the takeaways: Love
this land. Live for the next one.*

1. **VV 8, 13...** Faith changes our _____ allegiance.
 - It's okay to love America, as long as it's not the object of our ultimate hope. (Mt 6:33; Ex 20:3)
2. **VV 10, 16...** Faith directs our hope towards God's _____ country.
 - These words from the verses, "looking forward" (v 10) and "longing" (v 16)... they are *forward-looking*. (Col 3:1-2; Jn 14:2-3)

TURN OVER

3. **V 13...** Faith reminds us that we are _____ of another country and _____ in this one.

- The verse states that they “admitted” they were foreigners. That’s identity. They identified as foreigners. (Phil 3:20-21; 2 Cor 5:20)

“This is great, Pastor. But... what do I _____ (Jas 1:22) with this information? How do I live this out tomorrow morning?” *Glad you asked.*

7 PRACTICAL RESPONSES

1. Pray regularly for our nation's leaders, churches, and communities. (1 Tim 2:1-4)
2. Colossians 3 says, “Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” What are those things? How specifically will you set your mind on them?
 - a. Jesus Christ (who He is, what He’s done, His return...)
 - b. Our future home (the new heaven and new earth, how the Bible describes heaven, our inheritance...)
 - c. Our new identity (forgiven, adopted, accepted...)
 - d. God’s character (His holiness, compassion, kindness, justice, mercy...)
 - e. And more...
3. Invest in God’s kingdom with the resources He entrusted you to invest in: your time, treasure, and talents. (Mt 25:14-30)
4. If someone interviewed a friend of yours, would the interviewer conclude that you are living for this world or for God’s kingdom? What details would your friend share to bring the interviewer to his conclusion?
5. As an ambassador for God’s heavenly country, what specifically would be your “duties” on a day-to-day basis?
6. If God would allow the enemy to snatch away one of your earthly blessings (a relationship, a material item, or something else), which blessing would be the most difficult one to lose and why?
7. Have you started your journey towards the heavenly country?
 - a. If no, would you like to start that journey?
 - b. If yes, where are you on your journey? (In a ditch, walking through a valley, on a mountain top, in a desert, on a lonely road...) What is the purpose behind the current circumstances regarding your journey?