

# ACCESS: Escape to Heaven

Sermon: Access: Escape to Heaven  
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Date: April 26, 2020

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights. James 1:17 (NIV)*

It's hard to access Heaven when you're still held hostage to the world

## 1. Escape through Redefining

**Isaiah 5:20,21 NIV** Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

"He who defines the terms wins the battle" - We need to redefine the word good

### World's "Good"

Comfort  
Prosperity  
Pleasure  
Fantasy  
Freedom  
Self-Identifying  
Self-Preservation  
Sanctity of Self

### God's "Good"

Comforted  
Generosity  
Peace  
Joy  
Surrender  
Christ Identifying  
Self-Sacrifice  
Sanctity of Life

## 2. Escape through Proximity

**Ephesians 1:3 NIV** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ

As we spend time in His presence - His blessings pour out over us!

## 3. Escape through Patience

"The Great Pause"

**James 1:12 NLT** God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation.

Patience is "calmness with expectation"

*"A waiting person is a patient person. The word patience means the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in the belief that something hidden there will manifest itself to us." Henri Nouwen"*

## 4. Escape through Power

**2 Peter 1:3 ESV** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

Intellectual Knowledge (gnosis)  
Experiential Knowledge (epignosis)

## 5. Escape through Promises

**2 Peter 1:4 ESV** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature

Declaration

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| IT IS UNDENIABLE:     | HE IS ON YOUR SIDE |
| IT IS UNQUESTIONABLE: | HE IS FOR YOU      |
| IT IS INDISPUTABLE:   | HE GOES BEFORE YOU |
| IT IS UNFATHOMABLE:   | HE LOVES YOU       |

*Es*

## Questions

6. How do you define 'good'? What aspects of the world's 'good' are you holding God accountable for? How might He want to shift your idea of 'good' to more align with His definition?
7. All of Heaven's resources are available to you through the Holy Spirit - what area of your life do you need to surrender to the Holy Spirit to experience that fullness?
8. Are you spending more time listening to the propaganda of the world or are you filling your life with the promises of God? How are you being intentional about filling your life with Heaven's Promises?

*"We need today a fresh spirit of anticipation that springs out of the **promises of God**. We must declare war on the mood of nonexpectation" -A.W. Tozer*