

6. HOW TO THINK ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS

There is so much to be gained by Spiritual mindedness, yet we find it hard to achieve. So, in developing this gift, we need to be sure that our view and understanding of what heaven is like, is a reflection of what has been revealed to us in the scriptures. Some people's ideas about heaven are pure imagination. How often do we see illustrations, compiled by some pie in the sky dreamers, about what Jesus looks like, apart from other scenes of angles and even God Himself?

We need to remember that heaven is a place where we will be free of all troubles – illness, poverty and such like. But above all, it will be a place completely free from sin and the consequences of sin. How often are we as Christians disappointed to find sinfulness still affects us here and how we continually let down our Master in the things we say, do and think about.

Those that are misguided about what heaven is like, tend to think of it as a place where the sensual desires of this earth, that we so much long for, will be fully satisfied. This attitude is so prevalent in the pagan religion of Islam in particular. But to a lesser degree in misinformed Christians. There is no Spirituality in that mindset at all.

Still others imagine heaven as a place where our souls are wholly captivated by the beauty and goodness of the divine Being. That is only half true.

Scripture indicates that the chief delight of heaven is that believers will there see the Glory Christ and understand the wisdom of all that God has done for the salvation of the Church.

To understand the importance of the Glory of Christ more fully, we will be doing a study on this subject following the conclusion of this series on "Thinking Spiritually". But to understand the Glory of Christ, in the Father, is indeed a pearl of great price.

By faith, we have some knowledge of what heaven is like now, but when we get to heaven, we will really see what it is like, for its beauty will be fully displayed. We are now being prepared by the Holy Spirit for what heaven will be like. However, those who know nothing of God's grace here, will not appreciate Christ's Glory in the hereafter. The Spiritually minded are those who seek no other heaven than that for which God's grace in them makes them long for.

When we have learned the true facts of what heaven is like, we should long for nothing else, and think about them constantly in order to bring joy and contentment to our hearts. In this way we become increasingly Spiritually minded. As we contemplate the Lord's Glory, so will we be transformed more and more into this state ourselves. If we are preoccupied with such thoughts, it will be evidence that we are growing Spiritually, for where our treasure is, that is where our hearts will be.

Should we not test ourselves in these matters? If we fail this test, it can only be for one of two reasons... either we are ignorant about the truth of heaven, or we have no joy in such thoughts because we are not Spiritually minded.

Not only should we be meditating on the true facts of heaven, but we should be contrasting them with the alternative, which is the place called hell. Our Master constantly warned about the very real existence of this place, although many are those that deny it. Some may acknowledge the existence of hell, but being in a constant state of denial, they put it out of their minds. But for believers, the more we think about hell, the more we will be stirred up to thank God for the salvation He has so graciously given to them in Christ.

When we are overcome with weakness or tiredness and cannot concentrate on meditation, we should not stop trying, for as we comfort ourselves with the verses in **ROM 8:23-26** we will surely prevail.

Then we are to make sure that we do not lose the progress that we have made by neglecting the habit of meditation for any length of time. For surely constant neglect will lead to the abandonment by the Spirit by our tardiness, as we will content ourselves with things of the world.