If only you could love enough, you would be the happiest and most powerful being in the world.
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First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

HEAVEN AND HELL: If We Could Spend Just Five Minutes Either in Heaven or Hell, We Would Run a Different Race

David Wilkerson

If we could spend just a few minutes in heaven, we would never again compete in a carnal race. If we could experience a short walk within the gates of that city of God; drink in the peace, the beauty, the heavenly splendors; listen to the grand choirs of angels and seraphims singing the glories of the Lord; mingle with the patriarchs, the martyrs, the apostles, those dressed in white robes who came out of great tribulations; to once again visit with departed loved ones and hear their enraptured stories of what eternal bliss is like; sit beside the crystal waters, feel the glow of God's holy light; marvel at the splendid colors, the perfect trees, flowers and plants unknown to human eyes; and best of all, to catch a glimpse, just one, of the resurrected Lamb of God; to feel the glory and warmth and sense the security shining forth from His presence; and finally, to behold Him who was from the beginning, our holy, holy, Almighty God!

WOUld you ever come back to this earth and take up the fatal race again? Never. You and I would live only for the Lord, rejecting the world and all its pleasures and carnal things. We would run His race! We would never again backslide, grow cold, or serve the Lord halfheartedly.

If we could spend even a few minutes in hell, we would never be the same. To be drawn into that black furnace of fire and everlasting darkness; to suddenly be cast into a demonic world of godlessness, cursing, hatred, lust, and corruption; to hear the groans of the eternally damned, to witness their terror, their grinding and gnashing of teeth; to rub shoulders with the workers of iniquity, the rapists, the murderers, the world's dictators and tyrants, the crucifiers of the Lord Jesus; to listen to the endless sounds of hopeless, useless prayers of the damned; shaking their fists at the God of justice, cursing the day they were born; to feel what lostness means, cut off from God and truth and love and peace and all comfort; to witness such unbelievable sights and scenes beyond all the world's atrocities combined; and worst of all, to stand face to face with that bloody butcher from hell, Satan himself; to feel a wicked, enslaving fear as the father of all lies tries to take you by the throat and choke out of you a confession that he is lord of all; to walk out of the gates of hell with the cries of the eternally damned ringing in your ears, voices of the ungodly from all the ages, bellowing out their pitiful cries- "We are the lost! Lost! Forever lost! Chained to darkness and eternal tortures!"

How could you return to earth from your short visit to hell and ever be the same again? Would you go back to neglecting God's Word, His house, His love? Would you

go about your selfish pursuits of accumulating, hoarding gold and silver, and praying for even more? I hardly think so. No-you and I would live every hour as if it were our last. Oh, how we would pray, and work, and study, and sell rather than buy, and fast, and witness, and study, and sell rather than buy, and fast, and witness, and help the poor, and be constantly looking for the Lord's return.

I use to say to congregations, "Don't come forward to be saved just because you are afraid of hell. Just come in simple faith." But I was wrong-deadly wrong. The apostle said, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." There is a godly fear that leads to repentance.

It's true hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. It's also true that Christians are saved by unmerited grace, and that faith in Christ is the believer's security. Also, Christians are not suppose to doubt the saving and keeping power of Christ.

BUT there is one huge problem-passive faith, the fleeting kind that comes and goes, in flashes and during emotional highs and lows, will not save the soul. Only saving faith-the kind born out of deep contrition for sin; out of a heart that has repudiated all iniquity and besetting sins; out of a heart totally and daily surrendered to the Lordship of Christ-only that kind of faith guarantees grace.

God helping me-I have once and for all dropped out of the fatal race of carnality and worldly mindedness! I have quit the competitive race! I will no longer run in flesh-motivated, ego-tripping, man-pleasing races.

I want to do more than simply give up mental attachment to things, houses, cars, lands, possessions. I want the power and grace to curb my appetites, to lay aside all the

junk, to sell what I don't need, to quit buying and building and acquiring unneeded things, and to get my eyes so focused on Christ and eternity, the things of this world will lose their hold on me, and materialism will no longer by my master.

Beloved-if this message doesn't sit well with you, if it angers or upsets you even in the slightest-perhaps you should do what I've been doing lately. Get shut in with God, day after day, and ask the Holy Spirit to turn God's holy searchlight on your soul. Get deadly honest with God. Ask Him to expose the sin in you. Become God hungry and Holy Ghost convicted. Like me, you will soon discover how much time you have wasted, how many foolish lusts and wants have crippled you-and you will fall on your face before this Holy God and confess the coldness and emptiness in your heart.

And if you do it with an honest heart, you will begin to thank God for pricking your conscience and stirring you to run a different race. You will thank God for messages like this.

Saints of God-the trumpet of the Lord is about to sound. Our Lord is coming in clouds of glory to catch up His bride. A bride without spot or wrinkle. A bride purged of covetousness, pride, and worldly ambition. Shall we spend our final hours on earth putting money in bags with holes in them?

No thanks! I'm just passing through.