

A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a vibrant pink and purple hue. The person stands on a dark, rocky outcrop, looking up at the celestial display. The overall scene conveys a sense of awe and wonder.

GLORY

2. Thy Kingdom Come







Dallas Willard

I am thoroughly convinced that God will let everyone into heaven who, in his considered opinion, can stand it. . . . It might prove helpful to think occasionally of how, exactly, I would be glad to be in heaven should I “make it.” Will it be like a nice, air-conditioned luxury hotel with unlimited room service and spectacular



Dallas Willard

amenities for eternity? I often wonder how happy and useful some of the fearful, bitter, lust-ridden, hate-filled Christians I have seen involved in church or family or neighborhood or political battles would be if they were forced to live forever in the unrestrained fullness of the reality of God.



Where is
heaven?



heaven



space



earth



In the Bible heaven isn't a specific location on the edges of our universe way beyond our access, but as a different dimension where God dwells.





Genesis 21:7

God heard the boy crying,
and the angel of God
called to Hagar from
heaven and said to her,
“What is the matter,
Hagar? Do not be afraid;
God has heard the boy
crying as he lies there.



2 Kings 6:15-17

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.



2 Kings 6:15-17

“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.



Acts 7:54-56

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”







The Bible tells us that when
we die, our souls are
separated from our bodies
and we go immediately to be
with the Lord.



Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."



2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.



John 14:2

In my Father's house are many rooms.
If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?



The ultimate hope and
destiny of the believer is to
experience resurrection—
being raised to life in our new
physical bodies.



1 Corinthians 15:12-20

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.



1 Corinthians 15:12-20

More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in



1 Corinthians 15:12-20

your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.



1 John 3:2-3

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



Once we receive our new resurrection bodies, we are going to live in those bodies with God for eternity in a new physical earth.



Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for



Revelation 21:1-7

her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.



Revelation 21:1-7

There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."



Revelation 21:1-7

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."



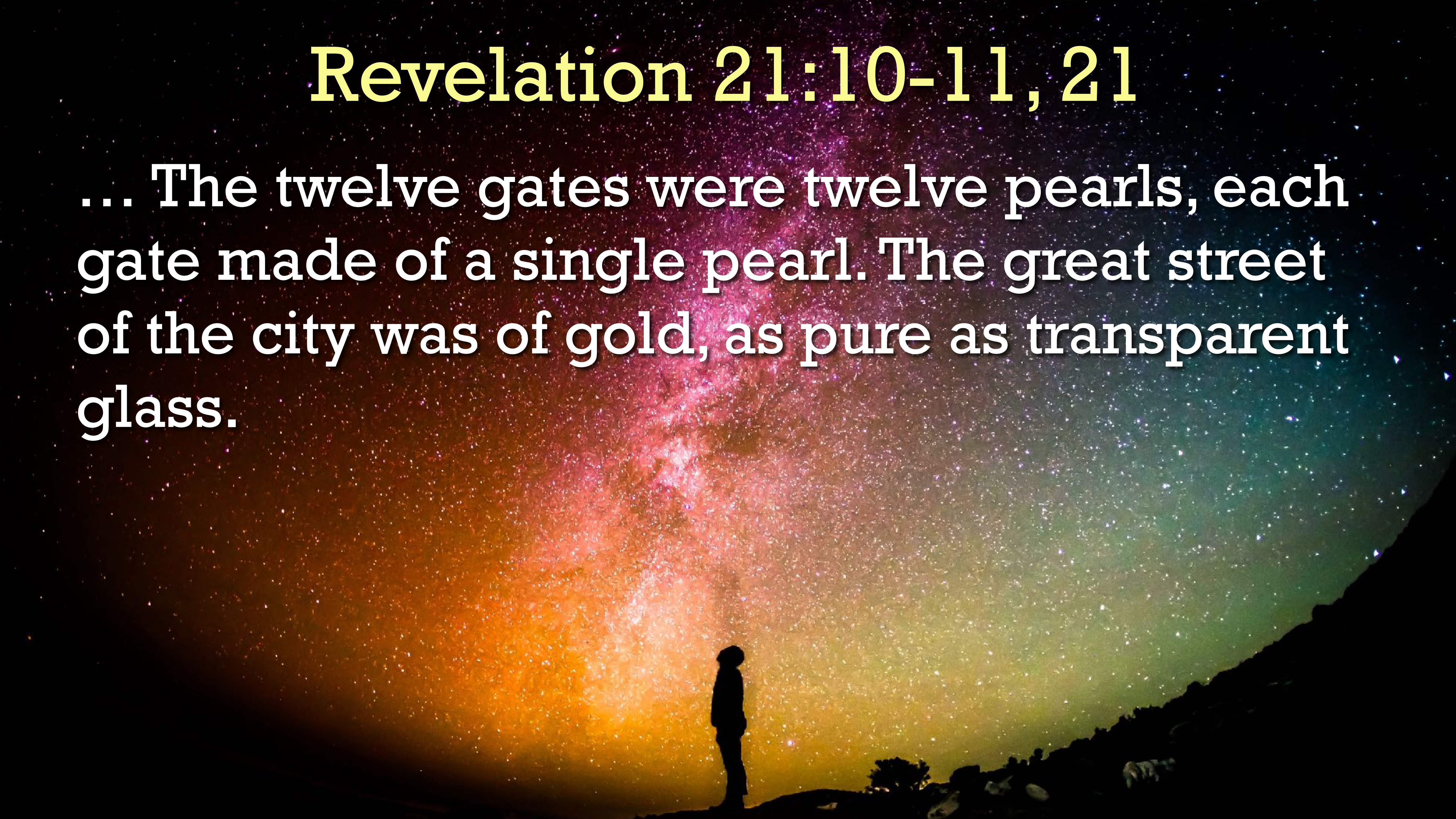
Revelation 21:10-11, 21

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.



Revelation 21:10-11, 21

... The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.



Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every



Revelation 22:1-5

month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more



Revelation 22:1-5

night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

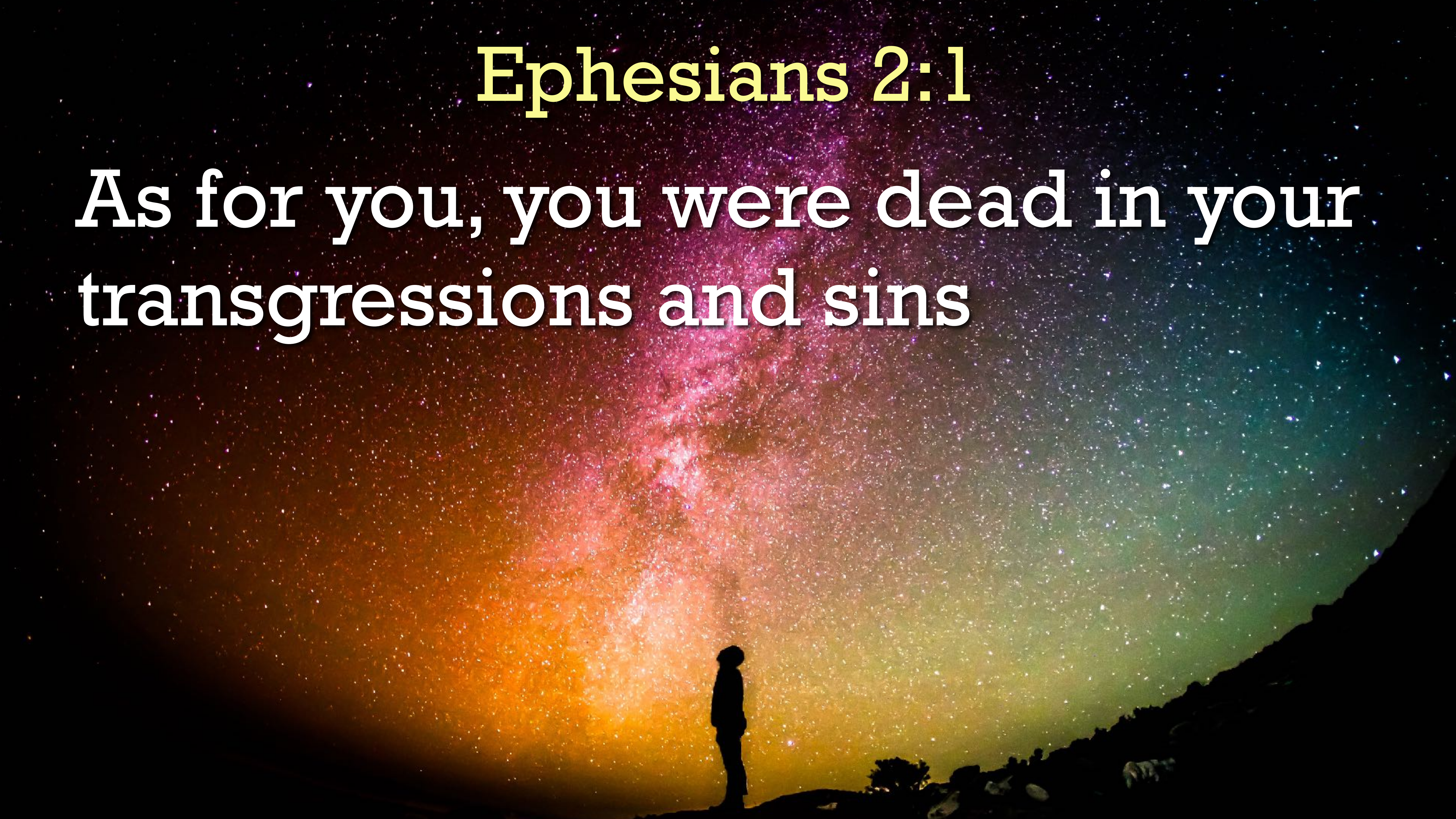


God invites us to
experience a foretaste of
his nearness and power
in our present lives.



Ephesians 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your
transgressions and sins



Ephesians 4:18

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.



Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.



John 3:3-8, 12

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”



John 3:3-8, 12

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot



John 3:3-8, 12

tell where it comes from or where it is going.
So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ...

I have spoken to you of earthly things and you
do not believe; how then will you believe if I
speak of heavenly things?



Galatians 5:16-18

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.



John Ortberg

Salvation doesn't mean simply being rescued from the consequences of our wrong choices. It doesn't mean being delivered into better circumstances. It means being changed. Salvation isn't primarily a matter of going to the good place. It's about becoming good people.



A person's silhouette is visible in the lower center, looking up at a vibrant night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is prominently displayed, stretching diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. The galaxy's core is a bright, glowing orange and yellow, transitioning into a pinkish-purple hue as it moves away. The surrounding sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous small, distant stars. The overall scene conveys a sense of awe and contemplation of the universe.

John Ortberg

... We need to be saved inwardly from our anger, despair, lust, greed, arrogance, and egotism. If our inner person is not transformed, our outer location won't matter much.

Matthew 6:10

your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

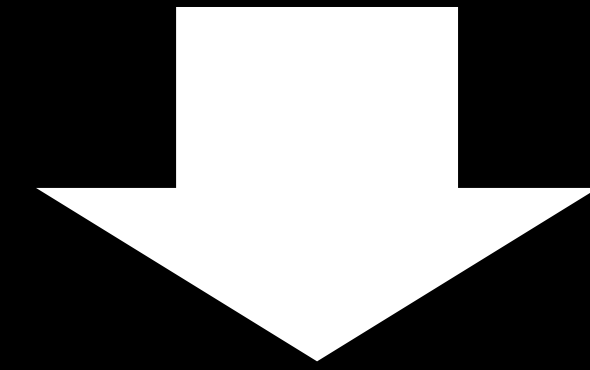


genuine vs.
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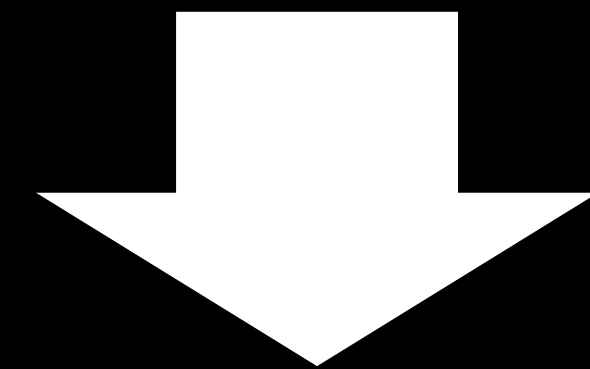
firsthand experience
based on action

confidence for
future situations

belief



knowledge



faith



Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.



Gary Black, Jr.

I have to admit that it took me a long time, and I still have a very long ways to go, to actually understand what Dallas was teaching about the invisible, spiritual, transcendent realities of the Kingdom of God. I listened intently to his words and ideas, took notes, asked questions, smiled, nodded my head, and acted like I was tracking



Gary Black, Jr.

with him step by step. And I think that is what most of us do when we come to these kinds of ideas. We listen, and we have a sense that at some level what we are hearing is true, or likely true. And we profess belief in the concepts.

Looking back, it's clear I didn't really believe in these realities because I didn't live as if what I



Gary Black, Jr.

was hearing was true. Dallas had this haunting saying: “We always act up to the level of our true beliefs.” Unless we act on what we say we believe in, we never develop knowledge of whether or not what we profess belief in is actually credible and trustworthy. What I began to learn from Dallas’s teachings about the



Gary Black, Jr.

reliability and robustness of the invisible substances of God and his Kingdom took me years to actually put into action in my life. And I'm still learning to trust what it is I say I believe in.

All of which means, in some areas of my life, I don't actually know, by experience, what it is I'm



Gary Black, Jr.

talking about. Which makes me something of a hypocrite. An actor. And it is in these areas, where belief has not been replaced by knowledge and experience, that I am desperately lacking confidence, or faith, in my relationship with God.



Gary Black, Jr.

... Here is one of my problems. I find it hard sometimes, in a cynical, materialistic world, to fully place my trust in these statements when so much of what we are told today is nuanced and spun. Sometimes I feel like the Bible has a tendency to overexaggerate its claims. These promises are just so magnanimous, so revolutionary. I want to



Gary Black, Jr.

believe them. I want to go all in, throw caution away, and jump gleefully into the open air of these hopes. But the risk of disappointment looms heavy. We live in a world where people are always overpromising and underdelivering.

I think it's much more likely that I do not experience those statements in my life as an



Gary Black, Jr.

ongoing reality often enough, and therefore, in order to protect myself, it's easier to discount the claims than it is to inspect my doubts. Therefore, my fears and pride prevent me from acting on what I say I believe and gaining knowledge of God's faithfulness, and my Christian culture lets me get away with simply professing belief in the



Gary Black, Jr.

truth of these statements without ever experiencing their reality. We've become good at finding ways of rationalizing away the biblical descriptions of Jesus's teachings and vision of the Kingdom of God and its power.



