



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalm 16:9-11)

This passage comes from the book of Psalms, which is a collection of worship songs or chants used by the Hebrew people during the time of the monarchy and exile. We do not know the context of this psalm, but the songwriter speaks about God being present with him in life and in death.

He says that even though he goes through some troubling times, we will continue to be glad in his heart and to rejoice with his mouth (tongue). He knows that whatever comes, God will be with him and he finds rest in the divine presence of his Maker. He believes that even in death, there will be some form of meaningful existence. While his body decays, he will not.

Verse eleven concludes the psalm by returning the focus to the present life. The psalmist is going to rely on God not only for rest but also for direction on how to live. Through God's presence now (not just in the eternal future), he will experience God's eternal pleasures.

We, too, can experience God's divine best for us. Life is not easy, but through prioritizing relational connection with God, ourselves and others, we are able to find wholeness, peace, and fulfillment.

What does "heaven" look like for you? How can you experience it here? How can you help others to experience God's eternal kingdom today?

PRACTICE:
Reflect on heaven
and how to bring it to
earth.

