

HOME OF THE SOUL

The home of the soul is the presence of God. We need to enter and live in the home of the soul as much as possible for it is where we have peace, protection, provision, restoration, healing, and hope.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ There is an old hymn entitled "Home of the Soul." Its words reflect what many people might think: that the home of the soul is in heaven and we'll get there when we pass beyond the boundaries of this life. The home of the soul is somewhere we go when we die. Many songs and sermons talk about things in this way, with heaven being "home".
- ❖ If we dig a little deeper, we could ask the following: Why is heaven considered home?
- ❖ One might answer that heaven is home because that's where God is. But if that's true, then is heaven the only place where God is? Can we only experience the true presence of God when we get to heaven?
- ❖ The Bible tells us that God is everywhere. The apostle Paul explained to the people of Athens that it's in God that we live and move and have our being. God is the sustaining environment in which we live. David wrote in Psalm 139:
Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
- ❖ English language speakers created a word for that attribute of God: omnipresent. God is omnipresent, meaning that God fills the entire universe.
- ❖ Hopefully, each of us has let this presence fill our hearts. If so, then we know something about the true home of the soul.
- ❖ Whenever we willingly enter into the presence of God and when the Spirit of God enters into us, we experience the all-encompassing feeling of "Home".
- ❖ The home of the soul is something we first experience even before we are born, when we're just souls in a bundle of baby cells (see Psalm 139:13-16).
- ❖ But we get bigger, and sometimes we depart from the home of the soul. We depart from that deeply felt certainty of the presence of God that once defined our being.
- ❖ It gets to the point where some people don't feel at home in their home. But softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, "Come Home."

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 139:7-10, 13-16

- ❖ Where are you in your life right now? Are you in the right habitat where you're healthy and thriving? Or have you settled into a habitat that is not helping you at all?
- ❖ Are you in a place of regret? Are you thinking about what could have been? As we start a new year, are you thinking about what you'd like your life to be?
- ❖ Why not think about home? There is a home of the soul. There is a house of bread. There is a Father who wants you there. Wants you there so much He's already heading out to meet you.
- ❖ Wherever we are in our lives right now, why don't we come home to the home of the soul?
- ❖ The home of the soul is the presence of God. Let's enter in. And whatever happens tomorrow or next week or even this day, let's stay in God's presence, stay in God's purpose for us, live by God's principles, live in God's praise, make every breath a prayer, think every thought with the mind of Christ.
- ❖ This is the habitat God has prepared for His people. This is the home of the soul, the always-abiding presence of God.

REFLECTION TOOLS

1. As you reflect back on 2018, have you been in the right "habitat"? Were you healthy and thriving? What were some of the factors that contributed to this state?
2. If you are not in a healthy or thriving habitat, what are some of the things you can do to change your habitat?
3. What is your ideal habitat?
4. To start off 2019, below are 19 scriptures referring to the presence of God:
Psalm 9:3, 16:11, 21:6-7, 23:5, 31:20, 51:11, 68:8, 91:1, 97:5, 101:7, 114:7, 140:13;
Exodus 33:14; 2 Chronicles 20:9; Isaiah 63:9; Jeremiah 5:22; Luke 15:10; Acts 2:28; Hebrews 6:19.
Read as a group and choose (a) verse(s) to meditate on.

Prayer Time

Lord, my only aim is to dwell in the home of the soul where Your presence is. Help me day by day to accomplish this goal.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



Start-up: "Home is where the heart is." What does this phrase mean to you?

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline