



## Part 22 — “Heaven Is Closer Than We Think” | Side-Topic | 5.03.26

### → Heaven Is Closer Than We Think

- Heaven is where God resides — It’s where His presence is fully known
- God’s presence is often felt more in seasons of grief (Matthew 5:4; 1 Samuel 1–2)
- Jesus’ message: “the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17)

**When we become aware of God’s presence,  
it’s as if heaven breaks into our world.**

### → Heaven and Earth Overlap

- Heaven and earth are distinct realms, but they overlap
- What happens on earth matters in heaven
- There’s an awareness in heaven of what happens on earth
- Heaven rejoices when sinners repent (Luke 15:10)
- We are “surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1)

### → Sin, Separation, and the Temple

- In the Garden, heaven and earth were united (Genesis 1–3)
- Sin disrupted the relationship between humanity and God
- heaven and earth became two distinct realms...
  - still overlapping, but no longer *fully* united as before
- God is holy (sinless) — our sin makes His presence dangerous
- The Temple (Tabernacle) was where God’s presence could be carefully approached
- The curtain symbolized the barrier between God and His people (Leviticus 16:2)

### → Jesus and the Holy Spirit Bring Heaven Near

- Jesus is the “Word” who was with God and *is* God (John 1:1–2)
- “Made His dwelling among us” = Jesus “pitched His tent” (tabernacled) among us
- Jesus is the Temple — the “thin space” between heaven and earth
- Believers are marked with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
- Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- **God’s presence now dwells in His people**

### → Living in the Nearness of Heaven

- The Spirit empowers us to live out God’s will on earth (Matthew 6:10)
- When we obey Jesus, we help others see how close heaven really is
- Loving enemies, showing mercy, and pursuing peace reveal God’s kingdom
- The barrier between heaven and earth is not a wall... it’s a veil
- For believers, death is stepping into God’s presence... a lifting of the curtain
- **Heaven is not distant. It’s near... even now**

→ **Main Takeaway:** Heaven is not just a future destination... It’s closer than we think because God is near, and He invites us to live in that heavenly reality now.

### → Going Deeper:

1. Read Matthew 6:9-10  
How does Jesus describe the relationship between heaven and earth?
2. Read Luke 15:3-10 and Hebrews 12:1-3  
In what ways does being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses encourage you?
3. Read John 14:5-10, 15-17  
What does Jesus teach about God’s presence?

→ **Next Step:** Where might you be missing what God is already doing right in front of you this week? Ask Him to help you see and respond.