

LIVING  
IT OUT



**DAILY  
BIBLE  
STUDY**



CEDARCREEKCHURCH

# Do You Think of Heaven?

January 8, 2018

## 21 Days of Prayer

Today is the kickoff to “21 Days of Prayer”.

When I look back at the history of CedarCreek Church, I can see that our church has always made prayer a priority. In the very first days of CedarCreek, a few families who answered the call to start a church for the unchurched and spiritually restless, began our church placing prayer at its foundation. Throughout the years, the act of praying first has continued to be CedarCreek’s priority. In every situation, good or bad, we have tried to stay committed to praying before we act and trusting God’s will to be done.

As a church, we pray and fast every January through “21 Days of Prayer”. During these 21 Days, we faithfully seek God first, trusting in his power alone to create a lasting impact in our lives, our church, and our community. As we start this “21 Days of Prayer”, our Lead Pastor Ben Snyder has some encouraging words to kick off our journey together.

21 Days of Prayer starts today and finishes January 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you join us on this journey and that you connect with God in a personal and powerful way. You can follow along through January’s LivingItOut. For additional information and answers to frequently asked question on fasting, check out this [fasting resource](#).

## Imagine Heaven

This past weekend we kicked off a new series entitled “Imagine Heaven”. For me, when I imagine heaven, my mind drifts to one of my favorite places on earth. Algonquin Provincial Park.

The Park is in southeastern Ontario, Canada. It’s a seven-hour drive from Toledo, three hours north of Toronto. Its forests, rivers and numerous lakes, are home to moose, bears, beavers, wolves and of course, Canada’s national bird, the loon. I think that the Park’s clear waters, rocky cliffs, and enormous night skies make it one of the most beautiful places on earth. When camping there, I have moments when I feel especially close to God through nature. One of my favorite experiences at Algonquin was when we canoed to the middle of a lake in the dark of night. The number of stars visible in the clear sky was a reminder that God reveals himself through his creation. In that moment, I felt like I was encountering a glimpse of heaven.

How often do you think of heaven? The memory verse for this month’s series is actually a command for us to think about heaven.

## **Colossians 3:1-2**

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.*

Ben mentioned this weekend that people who have never lost someone close, may not think about heaven very often. But someone who has lost a loved one, may think about heaven every day as they long to be with them again. Many wonder when or if they will see their loved ones again. The question "Who will be in heaven?" has great significance.

The good news is the Bible shows us that we will meet with our loved ones again. In the weekend message, Ben shared several Biblical examples with us. **Genesis 25** mentions when Abraham died, he was gathered with his ancestors. **Hebrews 12:1** talks about the cloud of witnesses. Many believe the witnesses referred to are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the rest of the Old Testament believers who were faithful men and women who paved the way for us and are now in heaven. In **Luke 16:19-31**, Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man were all recognizable after death.

Our current series, "Imagine Heaven", is based on John Burke's book, *Imagine Heaven: Near-Death Experiences, God's Promises, and the Exhilarating Future that Awaits You*.

Ben noted that an estimated 13 million people have had a near-death experience (NDE). That's 1 in 25 people! Ben also made the important point that this doesn't mean everyone's NDE is valid and true, and that we shouldn't regard every NDE story as being truth.

In John Burke's book, rather than focusing on one singular NDE, he looked for consistencies amongst several. While many of us have some level of skepticism toward NDEs, medical research shows there are consistencies in thousands of reported cases. Amazingly, these commonalities give voice to what the Bible teaches about heaven.

When it comes to answering, "Who will be there?", NDEs have a lot to say when we look at their consistencies. A 2001 study from the University of Virginia reported that out of 100 NDEs they researched, ninety-five percent saw deceased relatives. Incredibly, out of thousands of the individuals who encountered a NDE, the highlight of their experience wasn't seeing a loved one, it was that God was there.

The BEST part of heaven is that we will be reunited with our creator and experience God the way he always intended us to. Over the next four days, we

will continue looking at how God is the highlight of heaven and what heaven will be like.

Our hope for you this week is that you will embrace the fact that the highlight of heaven is God and that you can personally know him here on earth. Don't wait until heaven to experience him personally. Choose to know him more each day as you continually take steps to know him more and more.

**Questions:**

How often do you think of heaven?

Who do you look forward to seeing in heaven?

What steps are you taking to know God more?

**Next Steps:**

Prayer connects us to God and is a great way for us to know and experience God while we are here on earth. Commit to participating to the 21 Days of Prayer with our church. For fasting resources visit <http://livingitout.tv/resources/2017fast/>

As you commit to think about heaven, consider reading John Burke's book [\*Imagine Heaven\*](#).

**21 Days of Prayer**

During 21 Days of Prayer, Our Lead Pastor, Ben Snyder, will introduce an area of prayer to focus on throughout the week. This will be communicated in Monday's LivingItOut Study. Along with that, each day will have its own specific area of focus that our church will pray for collectively. The daily focus will be communicated at the end of each days LivingItOut Study.

**21 Days of Prayer - Day 1:**

**This Week's Prayer Focus:**

Pray for God's help to know him more. Ask him to reveal the things in your life that keep you from knowing him more and to identify the things that you need to add to your life. Ask what step you need to take this year to know God more. And then as a church, let's pray that CedarCreek will be a place where thousands of people who don't know God will come to know him this year.

**Today's Collective Prayer Focus:**

Our Leaders – Nation, State, and City (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

*This post was written by Ben Bockert, the director of the LivingItOut Bible Study*

# The Highlight of Heaven

January 9, 2018

In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, my mom and step-dad moved to a house in Sylvania. It was a nice house – a ranch big enough for the seven children that would be living there every other weekend – with a big backyard. The best part about the house, though, wasn't the space, or the large backyard, but the in-ground pool. I would've never thought that *my* family would have a pool. It was the coolest thing ever. The first summer we lived there, we probably spent every day in the pool, making up games, and seeing how long we could hold our breath under water. All of our friends would come over to swim in our pool for regular days and for the fun summer parties. However, it wasn't long – maybe a few years – before the pool lost its luster with us kids. Swimming was something we could do whenever we wanted, and so, like most people, we got used to it, and eventually ignored it.

We humans have this problem with many things. Take, for instance, those who live near the beach. Surely, we who vacation there are taken aback by the ocean's vast beauty and calming presence. If you'd ask a local, however, they probably wouldn't have the same feeling. Of course, they probably love the beach and the ocean, but they have most likely lost the feeling of awe we feel when we visit. It's not just the ocean or swimming pools, it's new technology, the mountains, big cities, and even new relationships. We tend to get used to things. The things – or people – which once inspired us and made us feel special, become a part of our routine, and thus, sometimes, take a back seat to other new, exciting things.

When we read the Scriptures, it's clear that this hole in our soul, the cavity which finds itself unable to be filled, can only be satisfied by the presence of God. We might, because of popular culture, believe heaven to be a boring, sedate place in which we rest on clouds and play our harps. Perhaps, because of a cursory read of some passages in scripture, we might even think we're simply going to be singing the same song to God for eternity. Either way, if we're honest, while these experiences might be cool for a couple hours, we'd eventually grow bored. This is not the picture of heaven the Bible describes!

What if, instead of becoming disinterested in what was once engaging, you instead continually discover hints of something even greater? What if every time a piece of technology, a new color in your living room, or a new relationship loses its excitement, God is inviting you to think about why this is? Maybe it's because *nothing* on this earth was meant to continually fill, refresh, and enrich your soul. Maybe we aren't as excited about heaven as we are about a vacation because we've missed the point of heaven. Heaven, ultimately, is an exponentially greater

place than Hawaii and an exponentially more intense feeling of joy than the day of your wedding. The highlight of heaven – the whole goal, the point, the purpose, the pinnacle – is God. What better news could we want to receive? Our souls, created and purposed by God and for God, will finally return to the creator and sustainer of them.

In Psalm 84, the Psalmist describes his longing for heaven. It seems he understood that he was made for heaven. As you read through this, try to center your thoughts on heaven and picture what the author is describing.

*<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place,*

*O Lord of Heaven's Armies.*

*<sup>2</sup>I long, yes, I faint with longing*

*to enter the courts of the Lord.*

*With my whole being, body and soul,*

*I will shout joyfully to the living God.*

*<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home,*

*and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young  
at a place near your altar,*

*O Lord of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!*

*<sup>4</sup>What joy for those who can live in your house,*

*always singing your praises.*

*<sup>5</sup>What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord,*

*who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.*

*<sup>6</sup>When they walk through the Valley of Weeping,*

*it will become a place of refreshing springs.*

*The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.*

*<sup>7</sup>They will continue to grow stronger,*

*and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.*

*<sup>8</sup>O Lord God of Heaven's Armies, hear my prayer.*

*Listen, O God of Jacob.*

*<sup>9</sup>O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield!*

*Show favor to the one you have anointed.*

*<sup>10</sup>A single day in your courts*

*is better than a thousand anywhere else!*

*I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God*

*than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.*

*<sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is our sun and our shield.*

*He gives us grace and glory.*

*The Lord will withhold no good thing*

*from those who do what is right.*

<sup>12</sup> *O Lord of Heaven's Armies,  
what joy for those who trust in you.*

Notice verse 10: "A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else!"

A single day in heaven is better than a thousand wedding days. A single day in heaven is better than a thousand first-days of vacation. A single day in heaven is better than a thousand first-time visits to the Grand Canyon. Simply put, our minds cannot even fathom how amazing heaven is. In heaven, in the full presence of God, all of the darkness in our lives will be extinguished. All anxiety, fears, and worries will disappear, and all of the emptiness we may have felt here on earth will be fully filled with the joy of the full presence of God.

**Questions:**

What verse in the above passage resonated the most with you, and why?

What can you do today to set your mind on the things of heaven the way the Psalmist did in this passage?

**Next Steps:**

Today, think about the things which you were once excited about, and how it felt when you anticipated those things. Then, turn that excitement to God and pray a portion of this Psalm.

**Prayer:**

*Father, help me to long and faint with longing to enter heaven with you. Help my whole being – body and soul – to yearn for your presence. Help me to shout joyfully to you in anticipation for the time when I return to you. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**21 Days of Prayer -Day 2**

**This Week's Prayer Focus:**

Personally, pray for God to help you to know him more. Ask him to reveal the things in your life that keep you from knowing him more and to identify the things that you need to add to your life. Ask, what step you need to take this year to know God more. Collectively, pray that CedarCreek will be a place where thousands of people who don't know God, come to know him this year.

**Today's Collective Prayer Focus:**

Our Pastors, church staff, Group leaders, serve teams and elders

*This post was written by Andy Rectenwald, a regular contributor of the LivingItOut Bible Study.*

# No More Darkness

January 10, 2018

Do you remember being afraid of the dark when you were a child? It might have been a monster under the bed or the boogeyman in the closet. Kids are hardwired to be afraid of the dark. Between the ages of two and eight, a child's imagination is exploding and can conjure up many frightening things. It is not the darkness itself they are afraid of; it is the fear of what the darkness is hiding.

## **John 1:4-5**

*<sup>4</sup>The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

We all must deal with darkness in the world through sin that makes us spiritually dead to God. When Jesus entered the world, he came as a light that would illuminate the darkness of our souls. There is great news for lost souls; God is life and brings life to the spiritually dead. He brings light into darkness. Jesus' life was an assurance of a better life to come. He shines light on the areas of our lives that need to be changed. The light of Jesus transforms our dark souls to be light bearers to those still in darkness.

From the very beginning of time, darkness has made claims that can never be realized. Darkness wants to grow and overcome the light, but light outshines darkness as it is superior and destroys darkness. The whole purpose of light is to shine in the darkness. As Christ-followers, we have the light of Christ in us.

In his book *Light and Death*, Dr. Michael Sabom writes of the Near-Death Experience (NDE) of Pam Reynolds. She conveyed that during a surgical procedure to remove an aneurysm, she experienced an NDE. She stated that she went through a dark shaft with a very little pinpoint of light ahead that kept getting bigger as she continued. The light was incredibly bright, there were figures in the light, and they were covered with light. She began to recognize them and one of them was her grandmother. She also stated that their looks were her understanding of what they looked like in the best of their lives. Her case is considered one of the strongest cases of verified evidence of NDE because of her ability to describe the surgical procedure when she was brain dead.

Pam's story is very real to me because I was witness to my father's spiritual experience three weeks prior to his passing. My mother had passed nine weeks prior, and he was heartbroken. He would stare at a jewel in a decoration on the

wall and tell me he saw a light coming from it. He saw many people in the jewel including his mother who had passed when he was only five and his little brother Bobby who passed at the age of two. Dad said that Bobby was 44 now. In fact, everyone was 44. I guess my Dad must have been 44 when he was the best in his life. He saw Mom on more than one occasion and said at one point she was close enough to Eskimo kiss. She spoke to him about where she was and what a wonderful, exciting place it is. I feel blessed to have had such a unique experience of a glimpse into the afterlife. This experience has greatly affected my life. Certain earthly activities have lost their luster, and loving others and sharing with others are much more important to me now.

### **Revelation 21:23**

*And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.*

There is no sun in heaven because God provides the light and everyone there radiates light. Light in our lives means we have no need for fear. Light means nothing can hide. Light energizes, light shows truth, light is life!

The opposite of light is darkness. Darkness is sin, darkness is wickedness, and darkness results in depression and loneliness. But Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 NIV

### **Questions:**

Do you believe that God gives us light in our darkness?

What does knowing there is life after death mean to you today?

Will you let the light shine through you?

### **Next Step:**

Read Isaiah 60 to discover God's promise of blessing to his people.

### **Prayer:**

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your light that will never go out! Thank you for sending Jesus, who is the life and light of the world. Grant us the wisdom to walk in the light and leave the darkness behind. Through Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

### **21 Days of Prayer -Day 3**

#### **This Week's Prayer Focus:**

Personally, pray for God to help you to know him more. Ask him to reveal the things in your life that keep you from knowing him more and to identify the things that you need to add to your life. Ask, what step you need to take this year to know God more. Collectively, pray that CedarCreek will be a place where thousands of people who don't know God, come to know him this year.

**Today's Collective Prayer Focus:**

Our City - The greater Toledo area, the Greater Findlay area, Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio.

# I Knew God Like I Knew Abraham Lincoln

January 11, 2018

I have always “believed in God” even from a young age. My parents took me to Mass almost every Sunday, and I attended Catechism weekly. As a child, God was as real to me as any figure I learned about in history class. I believed in him because a teacher taught me about him. He was as real as George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. The problem was, I also knew God about as much as I knew those dead presidents. My relationship with God was distant, if not non-existent. He was just not relevant to my life.

This went on for some time, until I reached high school. After my sophomore year, I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time for a friend to invite me to attend what I believed to be a Christian summer camp. The trip was set to leave in less than a week, and I had a hard time explaining to my parents where I was going, what I was going to do, and why I wanted to go (mostly because I didn’t really know, but my friends were going, so why not?) Nevertheless, they said I could go, and a few days later I got on a bus to a Young Life camp called Lake Champion somewhere in rural New York.

I had never been to a church camp, but I heard a lot of stories so my expectations were low. When we arrived, however, I was blown away. This place was like a resort. There were real beds with mints on the pillows, three all-you-could-eat meals every day, pristine landscaping, hiking, basketball courts, a pool, a lake, mountain bikes, zip lines... I didn’t realize it at the time, but every detail was intentional, from the folds on the sheets to the manicured grass. The camp was designed to be a glimpse of heaven, to transport high school students to a place they could never imagine, to experience even a glint of what God has prepared for those who love him.

Little did I know, but my favorite part of the week would be the two times each day when we were rounded up to listen to another installment of what I now know to be the gospel. The speaker for the week delivered the Good News in such a way that it finally became real to me. From those early days in church, I knew that God loved us and that Jesus died for my sins, whatever that meant. But for the first time, I heard about the love God had for *me* and that the creator of the universe wanted to have a personal relationship with *me*. I prayed in earnest for the first time in my life, as I realized that God the father had given me the right to be his son.

## **John 1:10-13**

*<sup>10</sup>He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.*

*<sup>11</sup>He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who believed*

*him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.<sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

The first Bible verse I memorized, shortly after that trip, was 1 Corinthians 2:9: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” The personal affection I felt from God, knowing that he loves me so much that he would send his Son to die for me, coupled with the hope of heaven, of a place so amazing that my mind can’t even imagine it, convinced me that God is not just something I read about in a history book. He is alive and active, and he is waiting in his glorious kingdom with open arms to welcome us into all of heaven’s splendor.

### **Questions:**

What is your initial thought when you think about God as “father”?

What obstacles stand in the way of your relationship with God?

Do you believe that God wants to have a personal relationship with you?

### **Next Steps:**

If you want to begin a relationship with God, you can start with a simple prayer, asking God to be your father, acknowledging that we are his sons and daughters, created in his image. If you have questions, seek out a campus pastor or staff member because I know they would love to hear from you. Or email us at [LIO@cedarcreek.tv](mailto:LIO@cedarcreek.tv).

Also, attend week one of the GrowthTrack where you will learn more about knowing God and receiving his best for you.

Check out [www.cedarcreek.tv/growthtrack](http://www.cedarcreek.tv/growthtrack) for times and information at your campus.

### **Prayer:**

*God, thank you for the gift of life, and even more for the gift of eternal life in the most incredible place anyone could imagine. Paul said that to live is Christ, but to die is gain. I don't fully understand what he meant, but I do know it speaks to the glory of heaven and life with you at my side. Amen.*

## **21 Days of Prayer -Day 4**

### **This Week's Prayer Focus:**

Personally, pray for God to help you to know him more. Ask him to reveal the things in your life that keep you from knowing him more and to identify the things that you need to add to your life. Ask, what step you need to take this year to know God more. Collectively, pray that CedarCreek will be a place where thousands of people who don't know God, come to know him this year.

**Today's Prayer Focus:**

Our Nation - national missions (partnering churches and church plants).

# Love Over Loss

January 12, 2018

Heaven. For many of us, the very word evokes a menagerie of thoughts, feelings, and images. While our conceptual understanding of heaven is both veiled and varied, the term is universally associated with mankind's most meaningful aspirations, such as purity, peace, joy, and love.

The expansive nature of the term "heaven" is evidenced by the fact that it is commonly used to describe both a location (the dwelling place of God and the blessed departed) and a state of being (a condition of unbridled joy).

To me, heaven is majestic and ethereal; it is at once both glorious and mysterious. And though none of us can say with certainty what heaven will actually be like, most believers would agree that it is our desired destination when our time on this earth has passed.

Getting to heaven requires two things:

First is belief. Admittance to heaven is not a matter of demonstrating our worth nor hoping that our ledger of good deeds outweighs that of our shortcomings and sins. Heaven, we know, is promised to us when we give our life to Christ.

But getting to heaven also inherently requires that we depart this earthly life. And few among us are eager to leave this world and the loved ones with whom we are sharing this journey. So, even as we look forward to the wonders of heaven, we are confronted with the loss and uncertainty that will accompany our ascension.

## Love Over Loss

One of the few certainties in this life is that it is temporary. We all will die. (Sorry for the downer, but this is not exactly breaking news!) This fact naturally invites trepidation over where we are going and what we are leaving behind – our life as we know it, our loved ones, and so on. Fortunately, the Bible reassures us that our earthly loss will be overshadowed by a promise and a love – the beauty of God's love in heaven – that is greater than anything we can imagine.

## Ephesians 3:18

*And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.*

## **1 John 4:9**

*God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.*

## **Romans 8:38**

*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.*

As lead pastor Ben Snyder noted during the first week of the *Imagine Heaven* series, heaven is a place where we will come to know God on a more personal level, experience freedom like never before, and find redemption in our story.

In considering the glories of heaven, theologian Martin Luther wrote, “I would not give one moment of heaven for all the joy and riches of the world, even if it lasted for thousands and thousands of years.”

Novelist and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis put it more succinctly: “Joy is the serious business of heaven.”

Though we do not know precisely what heaven will be like, we can take comfort in the beautiful promise of what awaits us after our earthly lives have run their course. Consider, for a moment, the enormity of this gift. If we accept that God and heaven are real – if we genuinely believe in the promise of God's eternal love and our place by his side in heaven – *we know that our destiny is wonderfully secure*. We are assured an eternity with our loving creator and fellow believers. We will be reunited with many of those we have known, loved, and lost. This knowledge can empower us to rise above the disappointments and failures of our past, and the issues that can appear so overwhelming today. Even the joys of this life will be surpassed when we ascend to the next stage of our journey.

In his book *Crazy Love*, author Francis Chan offers further reassurance of the existence and glories of heaven. “We are not alone,” Chan writes. “Even now there are thousands of beings in heaven watching what is going on down here – a ‘great cloud of witnesses,’ the Scripture says. It reminds me that there is so much more to our existence than what we can see. What we do reverberates through the heavens and into eternity.”

Chan's words emphasize both the reality of heaven and the significance of what we do with our time on earth. But still, many of us struggle to imagine what exactly awaits us.

Following the death of his father, Bart Millard, lead singer of the Christian band MercyMe, was moved to ponder the topic of what we will experience when we stand before God in heaven. What ensued was the best-selling Christian song of all time, *I Can Only Imagine*.

*“Surrounded by your glory  
What will my heart feel?  
Will I dance for you, Jesus,  
Or in awe of you be still?  
Will I stand in your presence  
Or to my knees will I fall?  
Will I sing hallelujah?  
Will I be able to speak at all?  
I can only imagine.”*

While we can indeed “only imagine” the details of what we will experience in heaven, we can take comfort in knowing that it will be beautiful and everlasting.

This week, *LivingItOut* has explored many aspects of our journey to understanding what heaven will be like. These topics have ranged from our very belief in heaven to contemplating who will be there and how the foretelling of the personal relationship we will experience with God in heaven can enhance our lives today.

As we close this first week of the *Imagine Heaven* series, we pose the question: Will you receive God’s love in heaven? In essence, will you give your life to Christ and embrace God’s promise of eternity in heaven?

### **Romans 10:9-10**

*⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

God’s love is too great to fully understand, and it completes us. Have you received it? If not, will you receive it?

### **Questions:**

Does the temporary nature of this life and/or uncertainty of what awaits you in heaven give you pause?

If so, consider the scriptural references above and take heart that God has a plan for you which only begins on this earth. How can studying the Bible help you to reconcile the inevitable loss of this life with the glories that await you?

If you have not already done so, will you give your life to Christ and accept God's promise of eternity in heaven?

### **Next Steps:**

Set aside time in the coming days to explore the topic of "love over loss." While it's natural to be apprehensive about what follows this life, consider the enormity of God's gifts - in this life and in heaven. As you gain an appreciation for how the love of God in heaven will far outshine the loss we will endure, seek to help others understand and believe in the promise of heaven.

### **Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for this life you have granted me and for the spiritual gifts with which you have blessed me. Though I know this earthly life is only temporary, I ask that you grant me the wisdom and mindfulness to make the most of my time and my gifts to serve your kingdom. Help me to always keep you present and to praise you for your love and your promise of an eternal relationship with you in heaven. Amen.*

### **21 Days of Prayer - Day 5**

#### **This Week's Prayer Focus:**

Personally, pray for God to help you to know him more. Ask him to reveal the things in your life that keep you from knowing him more and to identify the things that you need to add to your life. Ask, what step you need to take this year to know God more. Collectively, pray that CedarCreek will be a place where thousands of people who don't know God, come to know him this year.

#### **Today's Prayer Focus:**

Our World - international missions (leadership training and church planting).

### **21 Day of Prayer - Day 6**

Saturday's Collective Prayer Focus: Day 6 - The weekend church service as we enter week 2 of Imagine Heaven!

### **21 Days of Prayer - Day 7**

Sunday's Collective Prayer Focus: Day 7 - Prayers of Praise and Worship. Check out CedarCreek's Spotify Playlist.

*This post was written by Todd Romain, a regular contributor and editor for the LivingItOut Bible Study.*