

# Rekindling Hope: Rhythms, Patience, Grace

## Week Four: Tuning Our Hearts To The Key Of The Future

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## Intro

### Treadmills

**The Most Hopeful Phrase Ever Uttered:** *14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." [Mark 1v14-15]*

## Kingdom Of God/Heaven

### What? When? Where?

#### Mark 1v14-15

*14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." [Mark 1v14-15]*  
*se he is working out in everything and everyone.*

What? Kingdom- political order with God as king  
-Dallas Willard: The range of God's effective will

When? Now

The time is now fulfilled:

Time: *kairos* a specific moment, season, fullness for harvest

Fulfilled: from *pleroo* the unfolding of God's ordained order

Where? Near

NT Wright from Surprised By Hope:

Heaven, in the Bible, is not a future destiny but the other, hidden, dimension of our ordinary life—God's dimension...God made heaven and earth; at the last he will remake both and join them together forever. And when we come to the picture of the actual end in Revelation 21-22 we find not ransomed souls making their way to a disembodied heaven but rather the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven to earth, uniting the two in a lasting embrace.

John Wesley, The Way To The Kingdom

"Blessed is the man" (or rather, happy) "whose unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose sin is covered." He it is that inspires the Christian soul with that even, solid joy, which arises from the testimony of the Spirit that he is a child of God; and that gives him to

“rejoice with joy unspeakable, in hope of the glory of God” hope both of the glorious image of God, which is in part and shall be fully “revealed in him,” and of that crown of glory which fadeth not away reserved in heaven for him.

This holiness and happiness, joined in one, and sometimes styled, in the inspired writings “the kingdom of God” and sometimes “the kingdom of heaven.” It is termed “the kingdom of God” because it is the immediate fruit of God’s reigning in the soul. So soon as he takes unto himself his mighty power, and sets up his throne in our hearts, they are instantly filled with this “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. It is called “the kingdom of heaven” because it is (in a degree) heaven opens in the soul.

**For more see teaching series on our podcast from the Fall of 2024 all about many of the facets of the Kingdom of God available on Apple Podcasts/Spotify**

## **Preparing For The Culture Of Heaven**

### **Diedrich Bonhoeffer:**

So heaven is torn open above us humans, and the joyful message of God’s salvation in Jesus Christ rings out from heaven to earth as a cry of joy. I believe, and in believing I receive Christ: I have everything. I live before God.

### **Justo González**

This is the vision from which, out of which, the church must live. The church lives not only out of its past, but out of its future, not only out of its efficient cause but also out of its final cause.

## **Key Point:**

**The master artist has written the symphony and is conducting it, he will tune our hearts to his grace (desires/holiness), teach us to play with skill and passion (actions), and expand our horizons for what is possible and beautiful in the music (imagination).**

## **1. Desires**

Revelation 4vv6-8:

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and back: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,  
“Holy, holy, holy,  
the Lord God the Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come.”

Revelation 19vv6-9

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,  
“Hallelujah!

For the Lord God  
the Almighty reigns.

7

Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready;

8

to her it has been granted to be clothed  
with fine linen, bright and pure”—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

#### Ephesians 4v17-32

7 Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer walk as the gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; 18 they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. 19 They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 That is not the way you learned Christ! 21 For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, 22 to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

#### Rules for the New Life

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not make room for the devil. 28 Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. 29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Augustine: the whole life of the good Christian is a holy longing...that is our life, to be trained by longing...”

Curt Thompson:

Everything we imagine we must do to practice for heaven by creating beauty in the ash heaps of our world, be they marriages or toxic waste dumps, begins with desire. In this world of brokenness, that which is broken is not always so, it is merely the outgrowth of defiled desire. And for the world to be redeemed, God does not destroy desire, he resurrects and renews it while using it to renew everything else, beginning with us

## 2. Actions

**How would you live if you knew that every action of love towards God and neighbor would compound exponentially and infinitely in eternity?**

### John 6vv35-40

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, 38 for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. 40 This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

Wendell Berry:  
And this then,  
Is the vision of that Heaven of which  
We have heard, where those who love  
Each other have forgiven each other,

Where for that, the leaves are green  
The light a music in the air,  
And all is unentangled,  
And all is undismayed.

## 3. Imaginations

### Revelation 19vv22-27

22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Jeff Liou and Robert Chao Romero: By God’s design and plan, every ethnic group of the world possess cultural treasure and wealth that is of eternal value...[or] “community cultural wealth.” We will spend eternity partaking of this cultural treasure, offering up to God in worship and seeking the healing of the ethnic wounds we have received while walking in this broken and fallen world.

### Revelation 19vv1-5

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
4  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”  
5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

One of my (Ian's) all-time favorite quotes from *Hans Urs Von Balthasar*:

If we are truly and completely loved by the eternal Father then nothing about us escapes his care—not a single hair on our heads, not a single need unaccounted for. Even our failings, which we so often fear define us, are met with his inexhaustible mercy. And through that mercy, he does not merely overlook our faults. He transforms them, weaving them into the great fabric of his love. Even when he calls us to penance, it is not punishment but restoration, a fatherly discipline that reshapes us into something truer, something freer. “The Father loves you.” These words are not mere sentiment; they are the deepest reality in which we live and move. No matter how scattered and chaotic life appears, all its fragments are gathered up in Him.

This love reframes everything, even our relationship with what we call treasure. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.” Jesus is not simply warning against materialism. He is exposing the nature of attachment itself. Anything we hold too tightly—whether wealth, reputation, or even spiritual achievements—begins to own us rather than the other way around. It slips through our grasp the moment we try to make it last forever.

Instead, Jesus offers us another way: “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” These treasures are not things we hoard but gifts we give—acts of love, of surrender, of trust. And then he delivers the most searching truth of all: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

If we build our identity around what is fleeting, we will find ourselves crumbling along with it. But if we cast our hearts into the hands of God, we lose nothing—we are kept, held, and made whole. To give everything to Him is not to be left empty but to be filled with what is real, what is eternal. And one day, in His presence, we will recognize what has always been true: our life, our love, our treasure has been secure in him all along.