01082023 The Big Picture keep the main things the main things...time to firm up our boundaries.. our borders...

Why? We are living in a complex society and we are complex individuals, which overwhelms adults and causes great anxiety in people especially young people; children....

The calming and safety needed to keep us balance and moving in the right direction are called boundaries...boundaries give direction and establish borders in our behavior .....

Your life is defined by the boundaries you set...not how you define yourself ..Boundaries define us...They separate us from others...boundaries demonstrate what I believe and what I don't believe...by what I do, what I don't do...

A boundary is not what I say ... a boundary is what I allow or not allow in my life. on a personal level.

And What behaviors of others I allow in my life and which behaviors I don't allow... those are my relational boundaries...for example you do not get to call me horrible names and be in my life...you don't get to mistreat me and have the privilege to be in my life.

what or who I let in and what or who I keep out...what I take responsibility for what I don't take responsibility for....<u>all those limits are boundaries...</u>

Here is a humorous boundary that is actually destructive ...yet I have encountered many who have set this boundary for themselves... I have a friend and I have set a boundary on our friendship...the boundary is I am a burden to you and you dread hearing from me. So then I stop talking to you to ease the load and ruin what we had. The person thinks they are setting a boundary that helps the relationship but in reality creates isolation. The problem is the boundary limits me by the false assumption that I know what the other person thinks...without ever asking them...then making a self imposed relationship harming boundary...

We often times make up these kinds of unhealthy boundaries with God...for example...I should not ask God anything unless it is super big...because he is busy! God loves me when I am walking completely right...if I mess us, I have to get myself right before I go back to God.

## **Boundaries either bless us and others or are destructive to us and others..**

<u>Until we create healthy boundaries we will continue to recycle</u> <u>unhealthy ways and outcomes in our lives...</u>

You know sometimes boundaries need to set when we are in relationship with toxic people

There are visible boundaries....this building, the walls, the pews, the doors....and there are invisible boundaries....spiritual boundaries...personal boundaries...relationship boundaries... balanced boundaries enable us to experience stability in an environment that is safe one which we can return to finding balance...a rock to hold on too...that helps us stay focused on the journey we ought to be on...boundaries give us direction which influences our behaviors keeping us on track. Enabling us to operate in the security of self control...people who are self controlled are secure in who they are ..for they live by

boundaries...

Listen to this boundary that God has set...Scripture tells us that God in his design of man placed something deep in the core of his being...the big Picture

NLT ECC 3: 11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. ....

- one ... He has placed in the heart of humans a desire for the beautiful....that which has beauty....<u>and in everything we do there is an attempt to make things beautiful... attractive, inviting...we long for it</u>
- but we lack the capacity to make everything beautiful...Why?
- <u>We are limited spatially... we don't have sufficient time to</u> <u>accomplish it...nor can we extend our boundaries time wise to</u> <u>accomplish this great feat</u>
- <u>But all the time nescarry to accomplish beauty in all things is well</u> within the boundaries of God...in fact eternity is well with his <u>boundaries...</u>
- 11b .... He has <u>planted eternity in the human heart</u>, but even so, people cannot see the whole <u>scope</u> <u>of God's work from beginning to</u> <u>end.</u>
- he has set eternity in our hearts....though we are spatially limited in our hearts we know there is more... we know that there is life after life...or post-mortem living...
- <u>life that transcends the time and space domain we live in....we are</u> <u>nostalgic for it....</u>
- In the boundary of time...or somewhere on the time line everything is appointed to reach its beauty... or fulness or

### *maturity...we don't know when that is but God does..for eternity is well within his boundaries*

- in fact...all people everywhere and in every time period and in every culture ....in fact anthropologists have never come across any people group in any time period or culture who did not believe in some form of afterlife...it is in our DNA...<u>we are longing for it....</u>
- <u>it has been placed in our hearts...and if we are to live</u> <u>eternally...we must hink eternally</u>
- So we trust time to him...our boundaries must encompass his unlimited boundaries...though our physical boundaries render us incapable of understanding the scope of his power

This is the path of all the greats in scripture...<u>the longer they kept</u> <u>their hearts and minds on the above...the less they were governed</u> <u>by the natural...</u>and the more they became aware they are here for a season and a reason..we will possess the same mindset as the heroes of old...

NLT HEB 11: 13 All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

- They believe the promises and see its fulfillment in the future
- realizing No one receives that future in this life and neither will they.... But it is something we are heading towards...
- we realize this is not our home... so there will always be something missing...
- This knowledge keeps us balanced in handling the complexity, highs and lows of life on earth... in proper perspective

# • They did this focusing on a different home...where they belong, ... they don't have to keep trying to fit in here...

<sup>14</sup> Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back.

### If their focus was on this home...<u>they would return to it</u>...

- this is relapse in the spiritual sense... and The direction of their lives would have been vastly different then they were...
- <u>Why did they stay the course...remain stable in their walks?</u> <u>Their longing their motivation was different</u>
- The result....this longing sets your boundaries

<sup>16</sup> But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

- And this new home will be familiar to us...yet different..and absolutely amazing.... it is of a physical nature... it is a country with a city...a location...a place...Apparently a PHYSICAL PLACE...similar to ours...so it is really a home!
- And Until all God's people are safely home, God's complete purposes will not be fulfilled...

<sup>*NLT HEB 11:* **39**</sup> All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. <sup>40</sup> For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

• They were commended for their faith...but life on earth lacked fulfillment for them..it will for us too...

### • For us to finish the Race well on this earth a some boundaries are needed...

*HEB 12:1* Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us

.One the witnesses surrounding us...witness means someone who is spectating... they are involved though not in the game... observing...watching...but not idly but intently...

- We have the old testament saints ...whose stories we can read about and the lessons is they hung in there and so can we.....they are inspirations to us...we need inspiration...but this also includes the people the children of God who have left before us in our generation...
- we need examples of people who have gone before us to help keep us on task...staying on task is boundary setting...;the things that help me stay on task I include in my life...the things that take me off task I exclude or remove from my life..so that I may persevere on the course/race God has placed me in...!
- Some people are great examples of what to do...while others are great examples of what not to do...each helping us to stay in the race we have been entered into by God
- So what are we to do? Verse 2 tells us in Heb 12

*Heb* 12:2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the

place of honor beside God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. <sup>4</sup> After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. 5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child,<sup>[e]</sup> don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."<sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children.

- so we are to focus on Jesus, and the examples of those who have gone before,... our witnesses, and set boundaries in our lives that align with that...
- And why must we do that? so we don't get discouraged by men and opposition... and our sin that so easily entangles... and lose heart about what it is all about....
  - And realize the boundaries God sets for us are because we are his children...and he absolutely wants the best for up. And when he disciplines or punishes us...it ai always done from the place of training us.. reestablishing healthy boundaries
  - This creates predictability, stability, expectations, direction healthy boundaries which bring us comfort, hope, increases faith and a reason to stay on track for we have a goal and destination... for we belong to the family of God and a place to call home!

### A little more about our fan club...the witnesses in heaven...Jesus even gives two examples of the attitude of those in heaven toward us...

*NLT Luke 15: 4* "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. <sup>6</sup> When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'<sup>7</sup> In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

- When the one who has left the boundaries and strayed...Jesus goes and finds them...and His fiends and neighbors in heaven...the people rejoice
- But not only them ... the angels too..

<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and

neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."

## @@@@For us to finish the Race well on this earth a some boundaries are needed...

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### Parable of the Lost Coin

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### Follow Jesus not you

<sup>MT 16:24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup> I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

- He teaches them...they did not get the lesson right...so he teaches them again about
- Not living by their own wherewithal...even if their own ways gain them the whole world...
- But lay down their ways and learn to follow him...and count on his leading them to real life and on his reward...
- than they will truly live life...

## • and not only does he gently teach them... He shows them <u>Second example...</u>

<sup>MT 17:1</sup> After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

MT 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

MT 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

<sup>MT 17:6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." <sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

- He takes Peter (remember :Satan) James and John up alone to a mountain and allows them to see who he really is in his heavenly body and clothes
- They do the appropriate thing and fall down terrified...for they had never ever seen a Jesus in his awesomeness...
- Why does he do this?
- To build their faith...Peter had the faith to acknowledge who Jesus was to him...but still thought along with other disciples that his plans were as valid, as well thought out as Jesus....
- One the witnesses surrounding us...witness means someone who is spectating... they are involved though not in the game... observing...watching...but not idly but intently...
- And as we are in this life and during it's trouble's our is on a person...Jesus who went through scorn and shame...because of the joy afterward....the breaking of that separation between God and man...fulfilling that desire for eternity...eternal presences with our creator and his creation...
- and a place where he is at ....that has a chair he is sitting on...next to His father Throne...another chair... this
- so we are to focus on those who have gone before... our witnesses, Jesus, God and an Actual Place...where they all are at....

- And why must we do that? so we don't get discouraged by men and opposition... and our sin that so easily entangles... and lose heart about what it is all about....
  - <u>What is it all about ? Relationships with those who have gone</u> before us....Jesus, God and a place we are going too.....
  - This creates predictability, stability, expectations, direction healthy boundaries which bring us comfort, hope, increases faith and a reason to stay on track for we have a goal and destination... for we belong to the family of God and a place to call home!

end

For us to finish the Race well on this earth some boundaries are <u>needed</u>...

### aaa

• it appears those in this Heaven have their minds set on us... They are witnesses actually surrounding us...

### Lets get a good picture of our home....

comes in the knowledge of God has eternal plans for his children..... 404 times in the bible Heaven is mentioned and 238 of those in the New Testament.... and the vast majority refer to the abode of God, his angels and his saints..... in contrast 14 times Hell is mentioned... 5 times Hades is mentioned....and for most of us we know far more about Hell than we do about heaven.... I hope to correct some of that today...

let me tell you how this all started....i am very familiar with the scripture that says...

- One the witnesses surrounding us...witness means someone who is spectating... they are involved though not in the game... observing...watching...but not idly but intently...
- And as we are in this life and during it's trouble's our is on a person...Jesus who went through scorn and shame...because of the joy afterward....the breaking of that separation between God and man...fulfilling that desire for eternity...eternal presences with our creator and his creation...

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end

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*NIV HEB* 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

• witness means someone who is spectating... they are involved though not in the game... observing...watching...but not idly but

intently... as they are our examples...we need examples...of others in the family!

And there is a particular person to learn from

<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- And we are to practice in trouvble the same boundaries Jesus applied when he walked the earth ...
- Jesus who went through scorn and was shamed because of the cross he had to bear... was strengthened by knowing that is was not the end...
- There would be joy afterward....that joy was the end of the separation between God and man...fulfilling the big picture goal...of God with us!!... our creator and his creation...
- and a place where he is at ....that has a chair he is sitting on...next to His father Throne...his home and our home!
- So we are to focus on those who have gone before... our witnesses, Jesus, God and an Actual Place...where they all are at....
- And why must we do that? so we don't get discouraged by men and opposition... and our sin that so easily entangles... and lose heart about what it is all about....

What is it all about ? Relationships with those who have gone before us.... Relationships with those on the journey, Jesus, God and a place we are going too..... So that is why the chapter that precedes chapter 12....namely 11...lists all these heroes of the faith ...and like the heroes of the faith mentioned ...No one receives all in this life and neither will you....because this is not our home...so there will always be something missing...

HEB 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

• they realized this was not their home....Well what were they looking for?

<sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

# • all descriptions are of a physical nature...notice right off... it is a country with a city...a location...a place...Apparently a PHYSICAL PLACE...

HEB 11:39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup> God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

• they were commended for their faith...but life on earth lacked fulfillment for them

and it is with us also....in fact it will only be when we are all together that we will be complete and fulfilled...and that will entail our final destination....as described in Revelation 21-22...the new heaven and the new earth....a PHYSICAL NEW PLACE where the spiritual meets the physical

Paul also says the same thing...

<sup>COL 3:1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

- What are the things Paul says to set our minds on?? That which is above...namely heaven and the abode of God and the throne of Jesus...
- why? cause we spend so little time doing that? though we have been raised...that is our abode also...and it appears Heaven has it's mind set on us...

### three scriptural examples...there are more...

<sup>LK 9:28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

- Moses and Elijah...appeared in glorious, physical bodies although Moses died Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind...bodily.....yet they both appeared in physical form... How do we know? Peter wanted to build them a house...
- they were standing...not floating like a spirit
- Moses and Elijah...spoke to Jesus about things..they spoke with knowledge of things taking place and about to take place on the earth...

### and when Jesus was crucified...

<sup>MT 27:50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>MT 27:51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs broke open <u>and the bodies</u> of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and <u>appeared to many people</u>.

- these people were aware of the day....and resurrected with bodies...
- interacted with people on the earth....then apparently went to heaven..

Around 94AD John was on the exiled to the island of Patmos...and on this island he was given a vision of heaven...and things taking place and things that were going to take place on the earth... and he speaks of the saints who have died as martyrs...and he records their conversation with God....

<sup>*REV 6:9</sup>* When he (Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. <sup>10</sup> They called out in a loud voice,</sup> "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" <sup>11</sup> Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

There are a number of things we see here...

- 1. Those who died were relocated to the abode of God and were in the Temple with God...
- 2. those were the same ones who died for him on earth...now live with Him in Heaven
- 3. they are the same they have not changed...
- 4. they are distinct individuals...
- 5. They are fully cognizant of what happened to them...their memory and history on earth was not erased.... and fully aware it is still going on....
- 6. which means they remembered their life on earth...

## Stephen the first recorded martyr in Acts...looked up into Heaven...

<sup>AC 7:54</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

• Those present in the Temple undoubtedly watching also... which makes sense..because at the final judgment...not the salvation judgment....we will all give an account of our lives...

<sup>RO 14:9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> You, then, why do

you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For <u>we will all stand before God's judgment seat.</u> <sup>11</sup> It is written:

" `As surely as I live,' says the Lord, `every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "

<sup>RO 14:12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. <sup>RO 14:13</sup> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

- Your memory is not erased in Heaven...in fact it will be crystal clear...
- those in chapter 6...remembered they were martyred for Jesus...

7. and they communicated this....

<sup>10</sup> They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

- communicated this in a loud voice....they had emotions....they spoke audibly...they could adjust their volume
- they spoke as one ... there was unity and harmony...
- though they cried out as one...each is aware of their own individual history...
- **"How Long"** was their call...the current Heaven bound people are all aware of "time"...the present Heaven has a time element.....
- How long what...until he judges those who do wrong....Justice is always the cry of God's people .....

### • How long till you judge? Oh Sovereign Lord...the one who is in charge and the one who is holy and true... <u>THE</u> <u>PERFECT JUDGE</u>

what happened next....

*Rev. 6:11* Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed

- these people did not know everything....they were still asking questions and learning from God...they were discovering and continuing to grow...
- they were given a robe...they have a body a physical form of a different type...

1Cor 15:40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

- and told to wait longer... and they have a family connection....until all the rest of the servants and brothers are brought in.... then he will judge...
- Now these many people are talking to Jesus or what we call prayer...and they are aware of what is going on the earth and they are concerned...or what we would call interceding ....
- And Jesus know the exact number and the details of every one of them.....

• How long until you make it stop....is their cry...

<u>Voice of the Martyrs</u> estimates there are 150,000 people a year who lose their lives because of their testimony for Jesus . that is more than 400 a day... there are a lot of voices crying out....

- that is one glimpse of what is happening in heaven....and Scripture indicates there is much more going on in heaven besides this glimpse...
- scripture speaks of music, and singing, and worship and books and food...and as we read earlier it is a city....that is still undergoing construction...

## when Jesus was ready to relocate back to where he came from...he told his disciples this...

<sup>JN 14:1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."

- Jesus' Father has a house for his children...in a particular location...
- and Jesus is going there to add on to it...this has to be physical in some way....

• He will come back to take them there...to be with Him SO...

- Jesus who has a Physical body after he rises from the dead...
- is going to a place that can only be described as Physical...Location where his Father has a house... <u>There</u> will be spectacular places for each of us
- and in that house he is preparing each of them a place to live...

• He will come back to get them so they may be where he is and the others are...

and we will live eternally with God and those who know Him ... This place is our intermediate home....with God ...The Bible tells us that Heaven is a beautiful place....that Jesus is continually adding to and making even better.

• <u>Thomas like many of us do not understand what place Jesus</u> <u>is speaking about... ask How do we get there from here???</u> Great question...

JN 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

**Jesus Answered...** JN 14:6 I answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- you can only get to my Father's house through me...
- you see heaven is not our default destination...we don't automatically get there...
- our default destination is separation from God....this is our problem...our soloution come to Jesus...
- the solutions is a person...the destination is a place...
- Jesus said this to the thief on the cross...who turned to him and asked him to take him to his kingdom...

<sup>LK 23:40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>LK 23:42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. "<sup>LK 23:43</sup> Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in <u>paradise."</u> **PARADISE...an enclosed garden...walled park..** 

### and Paul visited this same place,...

<sup>2CO 12: 2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows--<sup>4</sup> was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

• interesting that he could not tell if he was in a physical state or not...but knew it was different ...but not that different..

What I know about Gabe in heaven so far....

- Heaven is physical in some way ... it is beautiful a paradise with on going construction
- He has a room or place of his own in our father's house...
- He is with Jesus...and countless others in a city that God created...
- He continues to grow and learn... he is aware to some degree of conditions and people on earth...he can intercede at some level at least prayer...
- He is in a domain that is time oriented...this heaven will end...Rev 21
- He has memory of his own history on earth, who he is and he knows who we are... and he has a body with at least some physical attributes...

### And this current heaven will also be recreated...

*REV 21:1* Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea....which we will talk about next week

### end

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• <sup>1JN 3:1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

### end

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So do what you are supposed too...think about home

God when giving the boundaries of what the people need to obey to be blessed...he said this they are not confusing...they are available, they are do able...and they create stability...hope and a future *NLT PROV 4:20* My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. (boundaries)<sup>21</sup> Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, **Why?** 

- This creates predictability, stability, expectations, direction healthy boundaries which bring us comfort, hope, increases faith and a reason to stay on track for we have a goal and destination... for we belong to the family of God and a place to call home!
- God when giving the boundaries of what the people need to obey to be blessed...he said this they are not confusing...they are available, they are do able...and they create stability...hope and a future
- NLT PROV 4:20 My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. (boundaries)<sup>21</sup> Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,
- Why?
- <sup>22</sup> for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. <sup>23</sup> Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
- Boundaries keep your body in check... protects your heart...determines the course the direction your life takes.....
- For a child of God that direction of life heads toward heaven

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For example healthy boundaries for children would include...household routines, predictability in our care takers, stability in parental emotions...etc. which give the child a way to find balance between complexity (uncertainty) and routines (certainty)....in their life..the same goes for us adults...

• Without healthy boundaries by that I mean overly restrictive boundaries or the opposite little to no age appropriate boundaries....

we end up pushing boundaries looking for relief, causing one to rebel, ....or confusion anxiety as we try to determine and set their own boundaries... to keep us safe and looking for a way to survive the uncertainty and danger of life of life... parenting ourselves