



Journey Devotion

When you are preparing to take a journey, what plans do you make? Do you carefully map out the route, the mode of transportation, and the stops along the way? Do you joyfully study all you can about the journey and look forward to the experiences you will encounter at the destination?

We are all on a journey to heaven. This journey began at baptism. Through water and the Word applied in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, our journey of faith began. Every day the Holy Spirit grows that faith in Jesus in our hearts. Every day the Holy Spirit leads us to recognize and confess the times that, because of our sins, we have strayed from the route God desires for us. Every day God graciously forgives our sins for Jesus' sake. He washes our hearts and renews us so that we can once again follow Him and serve Him on our way to our heavenly home.

In His Word, God promises that He already has plans for us. *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope* (Jeremiah 29:11). Have you spent time studying the travel plans and the ultimate destination God has in mind for you? Will Christ be your guide or will you try to go it alone? Do you have a joyful anticipation of living in heaven?

The Bible gives all the information you need. Jesus came to earth to live the life without sin that you could not, and died on the cross as your substitute to atone for your sins. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6). Jesus promises to be with you every step of the way. *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20b).

Your map to a joyful eternity goes through Jesus. There will be stops along the way. Some will be happy surprises while others will be difficult encounters. You can trust that Jesus will indeed be with you always. He has gone ahead of you and made all the arrangements for you to live with Him in His heavenly mansion.

Prayer: Lord, so much of the time we want to have things our own way. We busily try to plan our lives so we have it easy and fun. Help us to keep You in first place in our hearts. Help us to spend time in Your Word learning all we can about our journey in faith in You and our heavenly destination. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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