



HEAVEN EARTH

Heaven on Earth: Walk The Wire

October 17th & 18th

Speaker: Dr. Mark Batterson

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6

Series Overview

Our identity, our authority is anchored in a dimension of reality called heaven. It is the domain of God's dominion — perfect harmony, true identity, full authority. Every blessing is ours in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 1:3). Heaven is invading earth right here, right now. How? With a supernatural demonstration of God's love and power and wisdom. As citizens of heaven, we represent the heavenly realm. The goal? On earth, as it is in heaven.

Series Discussion Questions

How did you witness heaven invading earth this week?

Message Overview

Whether it's racial tension or political polarization, cancel culture or social media shaming, navigating this cultural moment feels like a high wire act. How do we stay balanced? How do we stay positive? How do we shift the atmosphere? The Apostle Paul shares four cardinal virtues that guide our cultural engagement—humility, gentleness, patience, and tolerance. When we practice those principles, heaven invades earth. Instead of politicizing, we theologize the world around us.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

Pastor Mark begins his message with a story about Nik Wallenda walking a tight rope suspended over Niagara Falls. In a season where it feels like we are on the **HIGH WIRE**, How are you keeping your balance?

In order to break glass with the human voice, you have to reach resonate frequency. Pastor Mark refers to Paul in the end of Ephesians 3 “shattering the GLASS CEILING.”

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to His power that’s at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and throughout generations, forever and ever, amen.

As a society, how are we echoing what Paul said in this verse to today’s generation of people who need to hear this?

To theologize is to treat things in theological terms. Are you filtering your political ideology through your biblical theology or are you filtering your biblical theology through your political ideology? What are some ways that we can practice what Paul preached during this season?

Read Job 11:6 God has given us TWO EARS and ONE MOUTH. Describe a moment of tension when you responded with a gentle answer. How did that alter the composition of the person who was creating confrontation? How was truth found within the tension of opposites? Were you able to come to a good conclusion, and what did you learn?

According to the Talmud, the first thing Noah did when God told him to build a boat was plant trees. Because he knew it would take a lot of planks to build that boat! He started by planting trees that would take forty years to mature. How are you playing the long game, staying obedient, and putting things into eternal perspective?

Practical Application

- Pray Ephesians 4:3-6 over yourself: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- National Community Church offers 28 Be the Bridge small groups this semester. Pray about joining, serving, or leading one of the small groups in a future semester. **Check out available groups at: ncc.re/bethebridge!**
- Find a daily rhythm of connecting with God and with one another by committing to [NCC Daily](#), a new five-minute audio podcast to help you walk verse-by-verse through the book of Ephesians. Invite a few others to do so with you, connecting throughout the week via Marco Polo or a group text, or meeting together online in person to discuss and debrief what you’re learning.
- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. Join us as we start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom.