

# Heaven's Priorities in Daily Practice *Michelle Myers*

## **All quotes are from Michelle Myers unless otherwise noted.**

This earth is where my life starts, not where my life ends.

Earth is an introduction to my eternal life.

Most of the time, living heaven's priorities in daily practice means you're going to be going the opposite direction of everyone else.

Colossians 3:1: "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

God is so much greater than us. Infinitely more holy.

If we don't rightly view God, we can't rightly see anything else.

Revelation 1:12-18

When we picture Jesus, we have to picture Him and Who he is now. It affects how we pray, who we put our trust in.

Jesus is a powerful Presence, Almighty God, the One who defeated death, the Light of the world who will not be overcome by darkness, and THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

The first time He came, Jesus came to earth humbly in the form of a man. The second time He's coming, He's coming clearly as the Lord and the whole world will pay attention.

Having a right view of God changes everything.

Colossians 3:2: "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."

We must aim for God's perspective, not merely what we can see. This takes intention + practice. But it's a lot easier to reflect God when you aim to see and respond from His perspective instead of your own.

How does God view and what is God's desire for

...Your family? Your church? Your job? Your paycheck? Your stuff? Your house? Your enemy? Your boss? Your hard situation? Your thought life? Your time? The gifts He gave you? Your attitude? Your sin?

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Take His view of your life and what's in it, not your own.

Colossians 3:3-4: "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."

Who we were before Christ is done. That life is finished.

We have to start having the perspective like we're already dead to the things of this world.

"When I am dead, how much will this matter?"

Your hope is in heaven + He gives you His power to live for Him now. (This also means our hope is not here and His power is not merely of the past or in the future.)

When I stand before the Lord, will this matter?

Colossians 3:5-7: "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them."

Dead = unresponsive. We should live unresponsive to the things of this world.

Is our sin a big deal to us? or have we gotten comfortable in a sin pattern?

Sin patterns amount to idolatry.

Idolatry means those sin patterns takes pieces of our heart from God.

Repenting is not just saying you're sorry. It's a change in direction.

Colossians 3:8-10: "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

Is Jesus changing you?

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The more we know our Creator, the more we should reflect Him.

Yes, there is a one time conversion and it should be a direct change in direction, but renewal is ongoing change.

What old patterns and old habits do you need to put aside?

Colossians 3:11: "a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all."

Christ IS all + Christ IN all = UNITY

Renewal isn't finished until Christ is all and Christ in all.

If we put our identity anywhere else, two things automatically happen: We idolize the group we are a part of We demonize the other group Am I putting my identity in something other than Christ?

Unity has to be the goal, always.

Unity prioritizes the unseen.

Colossians 3:12-13: "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

"put on" = clothe yourself. My compassion should be as easy to describe by those around me as the color shirt I'm wearing.

We are called to put on:

- Compassion (Harsh)
- Kindness (Mean)
- Humility (Pride)
- Gentleness (Hard)
- Patience (Anxiety)
- Forgiveness (Resentment + Bitterness)

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There are no exceptions.

It's impossible to reflect Christ without forgiveness.

Colossians 3:14: "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

love is the glue

Love is not merely a feeling, but the unconditional, sacrificial CHOICE kind of love that God initiates with us.

Colossians 3:15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

"Let the peace of Christ referee your heart."

Conflict always starts internally before it escalates externally.

If we can trust Him for our eternity, can't we trust Him for our right now?

Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

What words do you dwell on and what words most often flow out of you? Are they His? Are they full of gratitude? Do they result in worship? Force yourself to take time to be grateful. There is a connection between thankfulness and worship.

When you're too busy thinking about what's wrong, you neglect to praise Him for what Jesus made right.

Gratitude frees us up to worship fully.

Colossians 1:17: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

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Colossians 3:18-25:

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

How we live this out moves inside out, so that's the priority we must give:

- Our hearts
- Marriage
- Parenting
- Work
- Outsiders

Living heaven's priorities in daily practice starts in our hearts, then goes to our marriage, children, parenting, work and then outsiders.

Living this upside down is doing the right things in the wrong order.

ETERNAL: My words and actions reflect God's perspective of my life.

EARTHLY: My words and actions reflect my perspective of my life.

ETERNAL: I give maximum time and effort to what will matter when I stand before the Lord.

EARTHLY: I give maximum time and effort to what will not matter when I stand before the Lord.

ETERNAL: The peace of Christ referees between my heart and my circumstance.

EARTHLY: The worries of life referee between my heart and my circumstance.

ETERNAL: My habits reflect I believe Jesus died on the cross, defeated death and is coming back for me.

EARTHLY: My habits reflect I believe what this world has to offer is what I'm living for.

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ETERNAL: I am most grateful for the gospel and worshipful of God in my heart and home.

EARTHLY: I am most grateful for the gospel and worshipful of God around co-workers and outsiders.

“Live like Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning and is coming back tomorrow.” – Martin Luther

Actually make less important things LESS.

We have to actively choose to make God greater and see heaven even when we're looking at earth.