

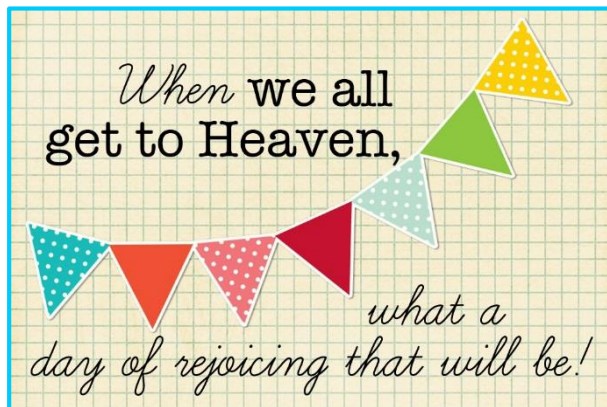
Finding the Way Home

Every year, Pacific salmon, having lived five to six years in the ocean, suddenly get the urge to return to the headwaters of their birth river.

Battling fishermen, bears, and giant hydroelectric dams, the fish fight their way upstream, determined to reach their home.

Scientists don't know how the salmon make their way back to the exact river in which they were born after being in the ocean for several years. Some think they can taste or smell the fresh water from their river. Others think they may use the stars to navigate.

However they do it, we know they don't use charts and compasses; their journey is intuitive. They have a longing for a particular river that isn't satisfied until they find it.



Commenting on this determination of salmon, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., wrote in his book *Turning Points*, "That's exactly how it is with us. God created us for heaven, and nothing in this earthly life can satisfy our longing. We should be like salmon – being in the ocean but not being of the ocean, not being at rest until we find our way home to heaven.

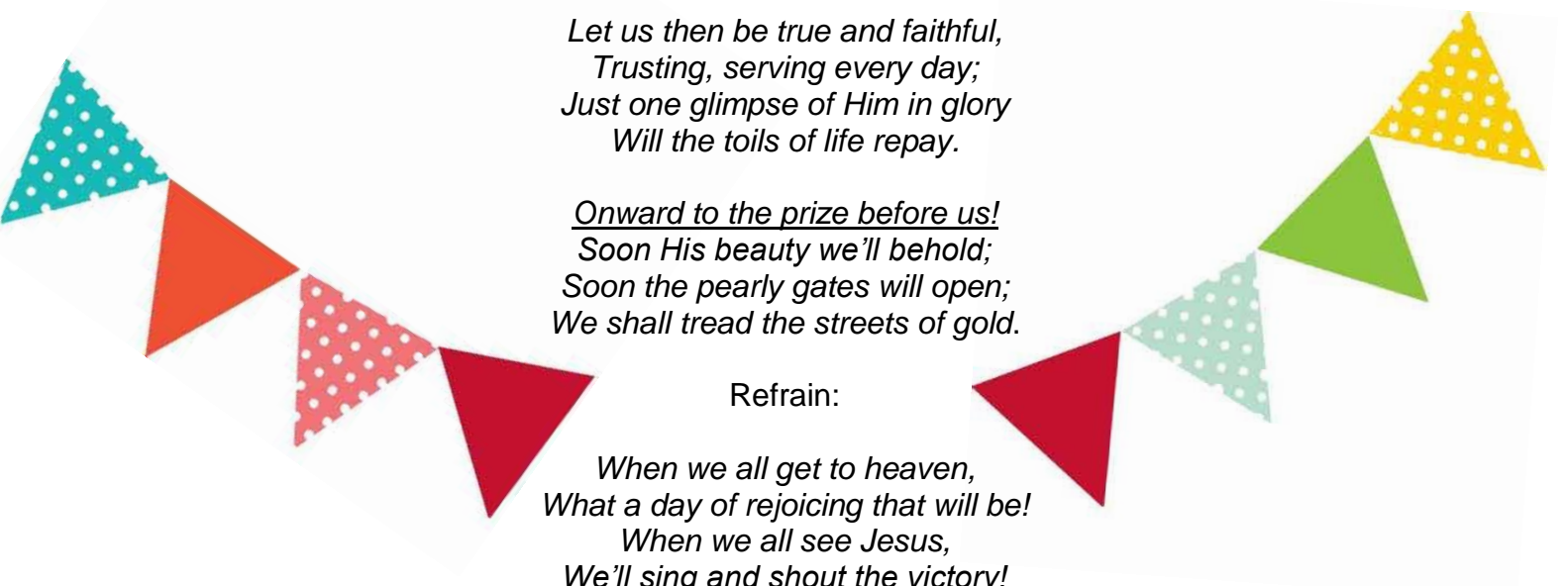
"If fish know when they're home and when they're not, how much more intense is that knowledge in those who bear God's image," Dr. Jeremiah said.

Not only is this something we as believers feel personally, but we see it in the eyes and in the conversation of the people we serve. They are saints of God, nearing the end of their earthly journey. Their yearning for heaven is reflected in the lyrics of that grand old hymn of the church, *When We All Get to Heaven*:

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.*

*While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.*

(more)



*Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.*

*Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.*

Refrain:

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

Amen and amen!

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20).

– Beecher Hunter