

Lifelines

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Topic: A place for you

Thoughts of Home

By Dr. Ed Jordan ©2026

What comes to your thoughts when the word “home” is brought up? What is “home?” Is it a place, a building, a sense of belonging? A culture, a sense of security, or your hopes? “Home” is a complex subject. Most of us have a sense of what or where home is, but can’t really express it very well.

Home has to do with a vibe, a sense of well-being that is hard to identify, but you recognize it when you encounter it. It can be memories that make us feel good, or a place of security where you can be yourself and be accepted for who you really are. Sometimes home is an exciting new aspect of life, or a new chapter to be written from new experiences.

However, home must include the present as well as past memories. It cannot just be a collection of fond memories from the past, because memories cannot be fully duplicated. Have you ever gone back to your childhood home town? I remember traveling to Winnemucca, Nevada some thirty years after I had moved to other places. The big lumbering house I grew up in was a fifth the size I remembered. The huge trees that surrounded and shaded the house were all pruned, and barren. I quickly realized that while that had been “home,” it was barely recognizable now.

I remember my Dad apologizing to me for moving to another state the same year I moved away to go to college. I totally understood their need to relocate, since they lived in a house owned by the railroad company, and now he no longer worked for them. Change happens. Home changes, whether we like it or not.

In the late 1980’s my wife and I sensed that it was time to depart from a church that God had helped us grow, and find a new place of service. We decided to explore becoming missionaries to Eastern Europe, since we had recently traveled to Hungary and felt drawn there. As we interacted with the Foreign Missions Board about possibilities of moving to Hungary, which was still Communist and under the USSR at the time, a missionary came to our home to meet us and coach us. He gave us some very good advice. He told us to redefine “home.” Home is where God leads you as a family to live and serve Him. Home is living out God’s will for your life, being together where God wants you to be. He suggested that we take along a few items which our toddler felt was home, like his blanket, pillow, and a toy or two.

After a two year process, we moved to Hungary, right as the last Russian troops left. We arrived when Eastern Europe still had communist bureaucracy. The language was one of the most difficult in the world to learn. There were very few phones, few people who spoke English, and few people who had even met an American. But it was now our home. The people embraced us, and we embraced them and their culture. It took years for me to learn to speak well enough to preach in Hungarian. However, we still have deep friendships with lots of people there, decades later.

Home is where you make it. Being with God, following His lead, and doing His will turns any place into home. I don’t own a house, but God has provided us with a nice place to live. One thing we learned, is that whatever place was once home for you, changes while you are gone. We like to

revisit places and friends, but you can't step into the same river twice. In the time it takes to put your foot back into the water that water has moved on down the river. Change is constant.

In John 14:2-3, Jesus was preparing the disciples for His upcoming death and departure. He wanted them to know, that where Jesus is, that is home. But He also wanted them to know that He is preparing a permanent home, a permanent dwelling place for those who love Him and serve Him. Jesus promised His followers in John 14:1-3 (NLT): "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me. There is more than enough room in My Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am."

Being with God, and doing His will makes it home, wherever you are!

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