

# echoes of eternity

*Summer Devotions*

Hal M. Helms



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*Echoes of Eternity: Summer Devotions*

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## Preface

In the very early days of the 3D program, the Reverend Hal Helms and I talked at length about the vision of the work of 3D. One specific vision was that God would speak to each one in the program and assist them with their journey. In the years that followed, Hal was the one who wrote the 3D devotional readings with Scriptures on the topics we selected. I have fond memories of sitting with Hal at his desk, sharing my thoughts and my needs and my struggles, and then watching Hal go through the Bible on his desk, locate a passage, and go straight to his typewriter and write the devotional in a wonderful way. And for over 35 years those writings have been at the core of the program that has touched a million lives.

I didn't know then that Hal had a prayer life that was so very vital to his walk with the Lord, and that he had learned the art of listening to the voice of his heavenly Father. Long before journaling became widespread, for years he kept journals of his conversations with God. In 1996, Hal felt that God was directing him to share these

writings with Paraclete Press. He asked that if Paraclete chose to publish his journals, we would not use his name. Paraclete did publish the journals, calling them *Echoes of Eternity: Listening to the Father*. However, because we felt it was vital that people know the journals were written by a Christian minister who had a wonderful relationship with God, we asked Hal for permission to use his name. With his characteristic submission to God's leading, Hal consented to let his name be used.

Over the years, more than 60,000 people have read these words and have been helped deeply. Many of those people were members of the 3D program.

Now I want to introduce this little book to the readers of *Your Whole Life*. My prayer is that you will be encouraged and touched by the voice of God as spoken to my dear friend, who is now eternally in the presence of his Father.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl Swartz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Blessings,".

echoes  
of  
eternity

*Summer Devotions*

# JUNE

## Open my ears that I may hear

Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear;  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine.

Clara H. Fiske Scott

1841-1897

## June First

*But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

*Romans 4:5*

I am your righteousness—the only righteousness that will ultimately count. *Your* righteousness is always sullied and mixed with unworthy motives. This I accept and cleanse, because of My own mercy.

I call you to rejoice in My righteousness. It is peace and joy. There is no striving or strain in it. It *is*. I know your frame, that it is dust. But I have not despised the work of My hands. I have not turned My back on My redemption. You are part of a redeemed people, and you have been purchased at a great price, because I have set My love on you. Don't try to figure it out. You cannot. Let it humble you in the right way. Let it free you in the right way. Let it lift you up in the right way. Learn to *flow* in My Spirit—casting aside the weights and sins—even the *pride* in your “righteousness.” My yoke is still easy and My burden is still light. Ponder what this means.

## June Second

*Have I been so long a time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me?  
John 14:9*

Little faith is better than no faith. Little faith in Me is better than great faith in yourself. I do not despise your little faith, but I do mean for it to grow. You have been in this way too long to be content with such a small and shriveled faith. I deserve better! I have not asked you for great human strength and courage. I know your frame and your fearful nature. But I have given you plenty of “faith material” with which to grow a robust faith. Where is the harvest, My child? Where?

## June Third

*For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.  
Psalm 103:14*

“Dust thou art and to dust shalt thou return” was spoken only of the physical flesh—the grain of wheat that must fall into the ground. The physical world is passing away and is destined to decay. But My kingdom, My realm is of another kind. Your glimpses of it are meant to reassure you and yes, *lure* you away from this passing-away world. Cling not to the world, My child. Let it fall away in My providential plan, and reach forth to grasp the eternal that will never fail. There is no sorrow in the loss if your heart sees and seeks the better part.

## June Fourth

*But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, "Lord, save me." And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him.*

*Matthew 14:30,31*

Come nearer to me, My child, and do not be afraid. As I reached out to Peter when his faith failed and he began to sink in the boisterous sea, so I am reaching out to you. You do not have to fear Me—for My love is greater than your sin.

You still put too much "stock" in what others think of you. Their good or bad opinions mean too much to you. So you take too much delight in the one, and suffer too much pain in the other. I am your Shield and great Reward. I am the Lord who forgives and redeems you. I am He whose love is unchangeable—and I offer you a fellowship deeper and more stable than you have ever known. I can be the crowning experience of your life—if you will come nearer to Me, and not be afraid of Me.

## June Fifth

*Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; . . . for Thou art my praise.*

*Jeremiah 17:14*

Praise My goodness, My child, in all things. The pain which I allow in your life, as well as the pleasure, is filled with My goodness. By praising My goodness, you extract the sweetness known only to those who love Me.

I have called you to be an instrument of praise. Most of My world is still full of bitterness and complaint. My goodness is ignored or rationalized, and people pass away without claiming the hidden blessing. I call forth instruments of praise. These are souls who can hear and *begin* to recognize the truth—a truth so magnificent, so full of grace, that people find it hard to believe.

Praise opens the heart to receive the truth of My goodness. It is not by reasoning, argument or logic—but by *praise* that this truth will build the temple for My dwelling in your heart. Praise My goodness, My child, in all things.

## June Sixth

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.*

*Matthew 5:44*

Doubt not that My hand is here. Let no clouds sully the purpose for which I have brought you here. Many souls have been wounded— not yours alone. My mercy and grace are wider than you can know or imagine. The healing streams from My heart will pour forth for those who will receive them. You do not have to worry about that. Only do not doubt—do not delay to be open to what I am doing. Do not miss the blessing I have prepared for you. Remember, my child, these words of Mine: “Pray for those who hate you and for those who despitefully use you.” That prayer will protect you from many assaults of your adversary.

## June Seventh

*I pray for them. I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them.*

*John 17:9,10*

“I am Thine.” You have said these words many, many times with no real conviction in your heart of what they meant. You are *beginning* to realize at a new level their awesome truth.

But now, My child, I say to you, “I am thine.” This is no one-way relationship, but involves self-giving on both sides. Just as in marriage both must *give* and *receive*—so with our relationship. Before you are ready to say with “blessed assurance” that you are Mine, I had *given* Myself to you. In very truth, “I am thine.”

## June Eighth

*Remember me, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.*

*Luke 23:42*

Your prayers are heard, My child, and they are stored up in My heart. Feeble though they are, and woefully imperfect, I do not despise nor reject them. My tender mercies are indeed over all My works, and I know your frame, that you are dust. But remember, My child, that My love is not like man’s love. I love not only the

brave and the beautiful. My heart goes out to all who truly seek after Me, however haltingly they walk. So keep on learning to pray—by praying. There is a world of wonder waiting to be discovered through prayer.

## June Ninth

*To the praise of the glory of His grace, where He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*

*Ephesians 1:6*

My works are mercy. My paths are peace. Your mind is still full of turbulence, because you still long for a false peace. The peace I give is not dependent on the favor or goodwill of others, and you must let go your demand that “they think well of you.” For that demand has its own pain and sickness embedded in it.

I call you to My peace—a peace that passes understanding, a peace free from your life-long striving to be accepted by others. Know, My child, that I have accepted you and loved you with an everlasting love. You have not yet accepted My acceptance—and thereby have robbed yourself of much inner rest. Let them rest who hate you. It is not important that others love you. Blessings abound in the path I have chosen for you. My paths are peace, and My works are mercy.

## June Tenth

*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*

*II Corinthians 12:9*

My strength is made perfect in weakness. This is an eternal truth, and you must learn what it means. I am mindful of your weakness, and your life is in My keeping. The days of your life are numbered—known to Me alone. You have seen that I am the repairer of ruins, the builder up of waste places. You do not have to understand “why” nor “how” this happens. What I call you to do is to rejoice in My works, to see and greet them for what they are.

Greater works are yet to unfold. My blessings are not running out, but they are for those who enter the secret place of My dwelling. Enter with Me every day. Guard the sacrifice as Abraham did of old. Be faithful to the end, and I will give you the crown of life.

## June Eleventh

*But I trust in thee, O Lord; I say, Thou art my God. My times are in Thy hand.*

*Psalms 31:14,15 (RSV)*

I am the Lord in whose Hand are all the future years. Whatever disappointment or delay I allow to come into your plans and hopes,

know of very truth that My way is best. I lead you along rough paths and smooth, green valleys and rugged mountains. I lead you toward the homeland I have prepared for you. The disappointments and sorrows are temporary, and they have their place in your pilgrimage. They wean you from false goals and steer you from wrong paths. Be not dismayed at bad tidings, for My eye is upon you and I will not leave nor forsake you.

## June Twelfth

*As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

*II Corinthians 6:10*

You are never nearer to Me than when your heart is overwhelmed with sorrow and uncertainty. You cannot fathom or understand this reality yet, My child, but you *can* accept it. My Spirit is given, not simply to give you times of joy and brightness, but to guide and lead you through the dark places.

Be of good cheer, and let no clouds keep you from embracing My blessings today, however they may come. Hold not back from those who reach out to you—make an extra effort to show your appreciation to them—for My sake. As surely as I am God, I will be with you. Count on it, build on it. I *am* with you always.

## June Thirteenth

*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

*I Corinthians 2:10*

I know your thoughts. Before you speak them, they are altogether known of Me. My Spirit searches the inner self (the inner man) and sees all. Your distractions, My child, are the fruit of your unfocused heart. You do not yet “will one thing” but try to fit many “goals” into your heart. It will not work. No rival can be allowed in the bride’s heart if she is to welcome the Bridegroom. Your soul must be “centrifiged” in Me if you would taste the fullness of My blessing. I have given you a measure of stability—in spite of this unfocused condition. That is My grace. But I ask you to take much more seriously your need to “will one thing”—My will.

## June Fourteenth

*The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love; He will joy over thee with singing.*

*Zephaniah 3:17*

My mercy is new every morning in hearts that seek Me. You can pray no better prayer than to entreat My mercy on those you love.

It is not that I *need* your prayers, My child, but that I allow you to participate in the *joy* of My goodness through your prayers. Your belief and your prayers *do* make a difference, for I have made a place for them in My plan.

Go now to your day with the full assurance that your prayer has been heard, and My mercy is renewed.

## June Fifteenth

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*

*James 1:19*

My child, My message today is this: watch your thoughts and your speech. They carry the potential of great harm. Be swift to hear and slow to speak—swift to hear any word against you, swift to hear the gentlest rebuke of My Spirit—and slow to speak the impulsive, critical thought that elevates you momentarily in your own eyes.

The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Take your eyes off false goals. Let me lead you to the joys of My kingdom, where pride and place *have* no place, and where true rest is found even in the midst of work. That is what I offer you today—*today*—if you will listen to My voice and heed.

## June Sixteenth

*Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears in Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?*

*Psalm 56:8*

You are still a wandering sheep, scurrying about in your mind in various corners of My pasture. You still gaze out over the protective wall I have erected for your safety, and let your mind go after that which I have denied you. This inevitably brings turmoil and confusion when you could be advancing in a tranquil, settled stability. It is natural for lambs and young rams to gambol in playful wandering, but in maturity I expect more—a graver, more serious focus on the eternal verities I have revealed to you in My love. Let My word *dwell* in you richly as you choose to *dwell* in My will.

## June Seventeenth

*Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all His praise?*

*Psalm 106:2*

Praise My infinite compassion which I have freely bestowed on you. Praise befits the upright. Praise lifts up the spirit. Praise builds up faith. Praise defeats the enemy's stratagems. Praise joins your prayer to heaven, where My saints are already united in unending praise.

Earth's sorrows are but the backdrop against which the glory of My compassion shines. They cannot dim that glory in the heart that is filled with praise. Praise is a weapon too little appreciated and too little used by My people. I have given it as a gift and have long instructed that it be used. There are no obstacles that cannot be overcome. But My ways are not the ways of the world. Worldly wisdom will fail. But praise—true praise and persistent praise in the face of darkness—*will* prevail.

## June Eighteenth

*For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.*

*Mark 8:35*

My child, give over your desire to be liked or loved. You are much too easily affected by signs of being slighted. I have told you that I love you with an everlasting love. My love determines what I allow to come into your life. Yes, My *love* determines that, so be at peace and learn to love others with an undemanding, unself-conscious love, which I will give you—if you seek it sincerely and earnestly.

## June Nineteenth

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.*

*Revelation 4:11*

You are held in the Hand that holds the world. You are kept by the Power that rules the universe. I have said, “None can pluck you from My hand.” It is not your feelings that keep you. It is not even your faith—for I know that waxes and wanes quickly under differing circumstances. No, it is My hand that holds you, My child, and protects you when you are least aware of it.

When your eyes are open and you are able to see this reality, give thanks and offer praise. When you cannot see or feel the reality, still give thanks and offer praise. That is an act of faith with which I am pleased. And by the exercise of your faith, it will grow stronger and steadier.

## June Twentieth

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?*

*Matthew 7:11*

My heart is a free and ever-flowing heart of generous love. I take pleasure in doing good for My children. Beyond mere perfunctory

gratitude for My gifts, I seek a relationship of unshakable trust in My goodness. I seek hearts that come to rest in My unfailing goodness. Those hearts cannot be shaken from their sure foundation by any change of circumstances. Circumstances do and must change, but My goodness changes not. This, My child, is what all My blessings and provisions are meant to effect—*your* unshakable faith in My unchanging goodness.

## June Twenty-first

*Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.*

*Psalm 50:2*

I take pleasure in providing blessings for My children. The beauty you see and enjoy is a gift of My love. You have a super abundance of it where I have placed and kept you. To enjoy it fully you must accept it as My gift of love. To reap all the benefits I intend, you must surrender your fretting. The earth is Mine and the fullness thereof. Do not lust after what I have denied you, but embrace what I have given so freely. I take pleasure in providing blessings for you, but I am saddened and grieved when you despise them and fail to recognize My fatherly care.

## June Twenty–second

*Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

*James 4:3*

Desires granted, desires denied—both flow from My sovereign will. You see and recognize My goodness in those I have granted. You do not yet see and recognize *clearly* My goodness in those I have denied. But it is all the same—My goodness at work for your good. It could not be otherwise, My child. Even now, as you wait long-delayed “answers” to your prayers, My work is still going on. Your faith is still weak and unstable. A small set-back throws it into confusion. My goal for you far exceeds what you can think or imagine. So do not spend time and energy mourning the loss of desires denied. Let them go in their time and be replaced by hopes that harmonize with My loving will.

## June Twenty–third

*And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the Lord.*

*Jeremiah 31:28*

Yes, you need Me. I am your life, your breath, and you are sustained every moment by My power and My will. Not a sparrow falls

without My permission. The world seems to be “out of control.” But I have set limits on its freedom, and I keep faithful watch over My own. Yes, the world lies “in the power of the evil one”—through the disobedience and rebellion of My children. The way is still narrow that leads to life, and few there still are who find and follow it. Your little world is a small one, but My Spirit within is ever pushing out the borders to make room for My loving concern to live in you. Let this happen. Let pride and prejudice fall away, and see the beauty and joy of allowing My love to reign where your pettiness and self-righteousness ruled and crippled. Yes, My child, you need Me. I am your life, and will be your greater life—if you will.

## June Twenty-fourth

*The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you.*

*Deuteronomy 7:7,8*

My dear child, My love for you is sovereign and unchangeable. Your love for Me is fickle and erratic. Nevertheless, I tell you, My love is the firm foundation on which all your hope is founded—not your emotions or lack of them. Of My grace I give you to experience the feeling of love—the love My Spirit has shed abroad in your heart. But even when you feel arid and listless, My unchanging love is toward you.

I would have you grow in love and stability against the faithless fear that mars our relationship. You need much healing and deliverance there. It affects your relationships with others—not just with Me. I know your frame. I remember whence you came. I do not despise your beginnings nor reject you for your sins. My love is unchangeable. Let your love build on that.

## June Twenty–fifth

*The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

*I Samuel 16:7*

I know your heart better than you know it. I am acquainted with all its foibles and failings. I know its dark corners and its supreme concentration on itself. Yet I do not despise your cries and groans for greater stability and light. I have come to aid—to save—not to condemn. I am doing a work within, and you have My solemn, sovereign word: I will complete it. All I ask of you is that you continue to be open to Me, and follow through in obedience to My word. It shall be well with you, that I may be glorified.

## June Twenty–sixth

*Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

*Romans 13:12*

As the light brings life to the earth, so My light brings life to your soul. My light banishes the darkness of hidden sin, the darkness of evil thoughts, the breeding places of soul-sickness and death.

Put away the works of darkness and choose the light-filled way. Let My sun drive out your dark and dank swamps of thought and feeling. Remember, My child, I am the Light of the world. Those who follow Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. Leave the darkness—flee from it and hasten to Me.

## June Twenty–seventh

*Thou wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures evermore.*

*Psalms 16:11*

I am your soul's delight. In My presence is *fullness* of joy. I give you, My child, a foretaste of heaven's pleasure when your heart floods with joy and thanksgiving. The road before you is purposely obscure. You do not need the burden of knowing the details. Grace abounds in each hard place, and I am with you in all you face. Keep

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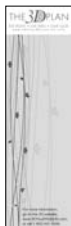


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