



# "A Life that Overflows Embraces the Kingdom of God"

John 10:10; Matthew 4:12-25

Would others describe your life as one that "overflows"? Why or why not?

**The deepest kind of living and the greatest life of overflowing is experienced by those who embrace God's Kingdom.**

1. **Embrace the Kingdom by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the King of the Kingdom, \_\_\_\_\_.**

*What is your Christian testimony of conversion?*

2. **Embrace the Kingdom by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ with its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus in your heart and mind.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ to live out the law of \_\_\_\_\_ with a view to eternity.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ others in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the King each day.

*How well, on a scale of 1 to 10, does your life consistently embody the values of the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_*

3. **Embrace the Kingdom by \_\_\_\_\_ others and \_\_\_\_\_ them to \_\_\_\_\_ you in it.**

In *The Divine Conspiracy* Dallas Willard paraphrases Jesus' announcement of the arrival of the kingdom: "All the preliminaries have been taken care of and the rule of God is now accessible to everyone. **Review your plans for living and base your life on this remarkably new opportunity.**"

*Will you?*    *Yes*    *No*

## "Did Betty White go to Heaven?" by Jim Denison

By popular acclamation, Betty White was "America's sweetheart." I first became acquainted with her on The Mary Tyler Moore Show and laughed along with most of America at her Rose Nylund portrayal in The Golden Girls. She was terrific in Boston Legal and The Proposal among other projects.

Now we have learned that the famed actress filmed a tribute to her fans just ten days before her death. She was participating in a documentary special titled "Betty White: 100 Years Young—A Birthday Celebration" that would play in theaters across the country. The feature-length special will still debut on January 17, but it will be retooled to be a celebration of her life and career. It has been retitled to "Betty White: A Celebration."

Her popularity is well deserved and not just for her television career. By one account, she supported twenty-six different charitable causes, from the American Heart Association to the Red Cross and Special Olympics. Her devotion to animals was especially passionate and noteworthy.

Given her remarkable life, I would imagine many of you cringed at my title for today's article. Of course, someone who was as beloved and did as much good as Betty White would go to heaven, many people will say.

To even raise the question is to seem intolerant, the worst thing a person can appear to be today. It feels unkind to ask such a question about a cultural icon like Betty White, doesn't it?

### What did Betty White believe?

That's because it's conventional wisdom that "all good people go to heaven." Only one in three Americans affirm the statement, "When you die you will go to heaven only because you have confessed your sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior." By contrast, 63 percent of adults believe "having faith matters more than which faith you have."

According to a substantive Probe Ministries study, over 60 percent of Born-Again Christians believe Muhammad, Buddha, and Jesus are all valid ways to God. Pew Forum reports that 39 percent of Americans say even people who do not believe in God at all can go to heaven. Only 2 percent of Americans think they are going to hell.

As a result, most Americans think Betty White's personal religious beliefs are irrelevant to the question. She was reportedly a member of the Unity Church, which describes itself as being "for people who might call themselves spiritual but not religious." Its "five principles" state:

- 1. God is all there is and present everywhere. This is the force of love and wisdom that underlies all of existence.
- 2. Human beings are divine at their core and therefore inherently good.
- 3. Thoughts have creative power to determine events and attract experiences.
- 4. Prayer and meditation keep us aligned with the one great power in the universe.
- 5. It is not enough to understand spiritual teachings. We must live the Truth we know.

I could find no evidence that the Unity Church teaches the need for people to confess their sins and turn to Christ as their Savior and Lord.... Is Christianity "worth bothering with"?