

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME

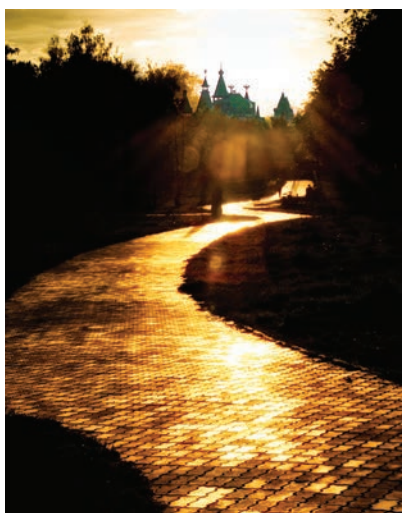
*Our inner longings are fulfilled by Christ.*

by BOB HOSTETLER

FOR MANY CHILDREN — especially those of the Baby-Boomer generation — it was an annual television event that became part of a family tradition to watch *The Wizard of Oz*. The film depiction of the characters captivated children of all ages: the scarecrow lamented his “head all full of stuffin’,” pleading, “If I only had a brain”; the tin man longed for a heart; the lion wished for courage; and Dorothy pined for home. Even those who’d seen it before anxiously anticipated the quartet’s annual trip down the yellow brick road ... only to discover that the fulfillment of their yearnings was not so distant as they’d imagined.

The movie enjoyed enduring popularity for many reasons, but perhaps most of all because those characters’ quests reflect our own longings. But who knew that each of those fantasy pursuits finds a real-life parallel in the promises Jesus extends to every human soul? For to every repentant and surrendered soul, He promises: “I will give you a new heart” (Ezek. 36:26). To fulfill our “scarecrow” longings, salvation through faith in Jesus Christ instills in us “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16), while also making us brave, knowing that “God has not given us a spirit

of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Tim. 1:7). And from the moment that experience becomes our reality, the promise of Jesus is fulfilled in us: “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23).



The journey is not so distant as you might imagine.

Have you taken that turn toward home in your heart? The journey is not so distant as you might imagine. Find fulfillment in Jesus’ promises by responding to God with a sincere prayer, saying something like this: “Almighty God, I turn to You now and turn away from my sins, trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and give me the blessings of new life in Christ — a new heart; the mind of Christ; and a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment. I surrender to You and ask You to make my heart Your

home and help me follow You from this day forward. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888-537-8720.

BOB HOSTETLER is an award-winning author of 50 books, including the award-winning *Don’t Check Your Brains at the Door* (co-authored with Josh McDowell) and *The Bard and the Bible* (A Shakespeare Devotional). He lives in Nevada.