

Living an unusual life – part 3 Living above

Opening scripture: Ephesians 2:4-7

When Paul wrote these words by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he was in Rome, in prison. As I mentioned in previous messages of this series, Paul's life was not unusual because of the absence of problems but rather because of what he carried in his life, despite the problems he faced. In the dark of that prison, Paul did not succumb to depression and bitterness because of what he was facing but he wrote about the mercy of God and about the great love with which He loved us.

In verse 6 he speaks of how Jesus has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places. Again, he doesn't see himself limited by the confines of the prison but he sees himself raised up, elevated, seated with Jesus – above his situation, above the devil and every other circumstance.

Jesus came to elevate our lives. We don't need to live like everybody else. We can live life on a higher level, we can live above prison walls, limitations, inabilities, deficiencies or any other ceiling.

Deuteronomy 28:1, 13:

V1: "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

V.13: And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

God has called us to an unusual life, to a *life above!* Today I would like to share with you today 3 keys to "Living above".

1. **A heavenly perspective**

Ephesians 1:3, 21-23, 2:5-6

1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

1:21-23 - *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

2:5-6 - *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

Paul's perspective is not the prison and the temporary but he has an eternal, heavenly perspective.

“Above” is where we belong – in heavenly places. We were positioned above principalities and powers with Jesus. We don’t belong here, we belong there – our citizenship is heavenly, our calling upward, we are only pilgrims on this earth.

We belong above, in a real place called heaven. We are citizens of this powerful kingdom! In order to live the ‘unusual life’ we need this unusual perspective – a heavenly perspective.

2. A heavenly mind

Colossians 3:1-2 - *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Amplified Bible: “*set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things) not on things that are on this earth”.*

If we want to live ‘above’, we need to think ‘above’ the way people think in this world.

God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). We need to change our thinking. To be carnally minded is death. We need to be spiritually minded – our minds need to be renewed with God’s word, with God’s thoughts if we want to live above. God told Joshua that if he would do this, whatever he did would prosper (Joshua 1:8). A carnal mind will never put you above. You will never overcome and live ‘above’ with a carnal mind.

James 3:17 speaks about a type of wisdom that is from ‘above’:
But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

3. A Heaven awareness

Thirdly, if you want to live an unusual life, a life above, we need to be aware that ‘above’ is a reality, ‘above’ is a real place and that the resources of this place are available to us on earth.

James 1:17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

Even Jesus came from that place called “above”:

John 3:31 - *He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.*

John 8:23 - *And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.*

His promises are from above:

Ephesians 1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

(Ephesians 3:20-21 - *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21** to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen).*

In **Acts 12:5-17** we find such a great example of the church, through prayer, taking hold of the resources of heaven, bringing deliverance and breakthrough.

That realm is real; it is more real than this realm because it is eternal.

We need to be people of God's supernatural, we need to be people who depend more upon God and His supernatural power, we must be people who learn to draw upon the resources of that realm, more than of this natural realm.

Prayer is how we get there. Our faith is the arm that penetrates the heavenlies and appropriates its power and blessings. We need to live the life of faith.

These are the keys to living an unusual life – a life “above”:

- A heavenly perspective
- A heavenly mind
- An awareness of heaven

God wants you to accept the invitation to ‘come up higher’ and venture into higher realms of living. What a privilege that in Jesus we have been elevated with Him to be “above and not beneath, to be the head and not the tail”.