

Message for Sunday 23rd of September 2018

It is real (part 2) **Living in the Glory Zone**

Opening text: Acts 12:1-17

*verse : 9 So he went out and followed him and did not know that what was done by the angel was **real**, but thought he was seeing a vision.*

Recap: As we saw two weeks ago, Peter woke up but thought that he was still dreaming. He woke up to something he didn't know was "real". When the angel struck him, his eyes were opened to another reality.

Like Peter, we need to wake up to the reality of the power that is made available to us when we pray and to the reality of God's spiritual realm

*11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know **for certain** that the Lord has sent His angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."*

He went to sleep in a prison but woke up in what I call "the glory zone": a prison became a Glory Zone!

The title of this second message is

Living in the Glory Zone

In the tallest mountains of our planet, in the Everest, the area above 8000 meters is known as '**the death zone**'. More than 200 climbers have lost their lives there. Oxygen deprivation, low temperatures and a number of other factors all combine to make life impossible there. It is rightly called 'the death zone'.

However, in God, the higher you go, the more life you have. In Him there is no death zone, just Glory Zone. In that zone everything is possible.

Sin deprived us of that zone - "*All sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Without Jesus, we all fall short of the summit, we all strive in lower levels of life, confined to the natural, we all fall short of the Glory Zone.

However, Jesus came to elevate our lives into the Glory Zone:

Ephesians 2:5-6 - *5 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,*

Jesus came to elevate our lives. The higher you go in Everest the more likely you are to die but the higher you go in Jesus, the more likely you are to get life and have it more abundantly.

Hebrews 1:22-23 - ²² *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

The Bible symbolically places the believer in this mountain where God lives, and angels move, alongside the other believers of the church – that is the Glory Zone.

This is a metaphor but, at the same time, it is real Peter had a glimpse into that reality when the glory of that realm invaded his prison and he was delivered from death row.

Living in the glory zone doesn't mean you have left planet earth (and that you'll never experience problems again) but it just means that you are connected with God and His power, it means that you have access to a higher place, It means that you can count on an invasion of heaven in your earthly circumstances.

The Glory Zone is simply the 'altitude' where God calls us to, the zone where miracles happen.

How do you live the Glory Zone?

1. Believe (faith)

Jesus said to Martha, ⁴... *“Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”* (**John 11:40**).

Peter had a revelation of the Glory Zone. Because of that he said, '**now I know for certain**' – That is what faith is: an inward certainty of the promises of God.

Jesus used the word “*certainly*” 77 times in the NT. That word is recorded 7 times in Luke. Many other times He also said “*verily, verily I say to you*”

Luke said, “*that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed*” (Luke 1:4)

As a believer, your goal should be to come to a place of absolute faith, certainty and assurance.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 - *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, ...*

2. Pray

This only works if you pray.

Our central text in Acts 12 describes the constant prayer of the church on behalf of Peter. Peter saw the glory and was delivered by an angel as a direct result of those prayers. Prayer works, prayer brings the glory of God!

Ephesians 1:15-22 - ¹⁵ *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention*

of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are **the riches of the glory of His inheritance** [the riches of the glory zone] in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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. ²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Pray yourself into the glory zone!

Prayer is how we get into the Glory Zone. Faith is the arm that reaches into the heavenlies and appropriates its power and blessings.

God slowed down this whole planet of 6.6 sextillion tons of gravel and water to answer Joshua's prayer of victory over his enemies. Why would you ever stop praying to the God who can stop the sun?

3. Change your mindset

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 'in the Glory Zone, 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.

Romans 8:6 - *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

To be carnally minded is death (it puts you in the 'death zone'). You need to be spiritually minded! We do need to be more heavenly minded if we want to be any earthly good!

Conclusion

God wants you to accept the invitation to 'come up higher'. Don't live your life always in the natural, thinking in the natural, talking natural and relying on natural solutions. Look higher, live higher. Higher is real because the Most-High lives there! God doesn't want you in the war zone or the death zone, come to the Glory Zone!

The way you do that is through **faith, prayer** and a **spiritual mind**.