

## **Raised Up with Christ Series** ***Seeking the Things Above***

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“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:1-3).

### **Session 1** **Raised Up with Christ: An Eternal Perspective**

#### **Three Thoughts**

- 1. You live in God’s presence.**
- 2. You only see clearly from an eternal, heavenly perspective.**
- 3. You may continually go to the Father in heaven through Jesus.**

#### **The Best News on the Planet**

The setting: Three dimensions intertwined.

Heaven:

Hades:

Earth:

Sin separated Man from God. A veil separated earth from Heaven and Hades.

God revealed Himself through three means.

- a.
- b.
- c.

God became a man. John 1:14

Jesus’ message - God is \_\_\_\_\_. Matt. 4:7

There was no veil for Jesus. John 5:19-20

Jesus bore all sins at once. Is. 53:6

God sees all sin. Heb. 4:13

Jesus became sin for us. 2 Cor. 5:21

Jesus was separated from His father. Matt. 27:46

Jesus entered within the veil. Heb. 6:19

Jesus’ blood bought us. Rev. 5:9-10

In dying, Jesus removed the veil. Matt. 27:51

Jesus' blood speaks. Heb. 12:24  
Jesus' resurrection is our hope. 1 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 4:25  
Those who belong to Jesus are raised up with Him. Jo. 14:20  
Jesus returned to heaven. Acts 1:9  
The Holy Spirit is the Presence of Jesus in us. John 14:20  
The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. Luke 18:13  
The Holy Spirit reveals the Kingdom of God. John 3:3  
Jesus receives a body when the Spirit is sent. Eph. 1:22-23  
Your body is God's temple. 1 Cor. 6:19.  
Heaven is near. Acts 17:28; Ps. 139:3, 7; Acts 7:55

### **Application**

1. Have you been given the Holy Spirit?
2. Have you repented of living for what you can see, taste, and experience on earth?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Is there a new thought or perspective as a result of hearing this message?
2. What do you think when you realize you live in the presence of God always?
3. What evidence do we have on our side of the veil in history that God is really there on the other side?
4. Read Luke 9:23-24 and discuss what this means in light of this message.
5. Read 1 John 2:15. How does this relate to the message?

**Session 2**  
**Raised Up with Christ: An Eternal Perspective– Part 2**

**Introduction**

**Three Thoughts to Consider**

**If you have been born of the Spirit of God, then you have been \_\_\_\_\_  
with Christ. You live in the presence of God. Eph. 1:3; 2:6**

**If you have been raised up with Christ, you can only see clearly from an eternal,  
heavenly perspective. Col. 3:3; John 4:24, 2 Cor. 4:17-18, Rev. 3:17**

**If you have been raised up with Christ, you may continually go to the Father in  
heaven through Jesus.**

Live at the throne of grace. Heb. 4:16-17, Heb. 7:25

Jesus calls you to continually come and drink. John 7:37

**You will be changed. Phil. 3:20-21**

**Do you recognize that heaven rules? Dan. 4:26, 34-35, 37**

**Have you been raised up with Christ?**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Share a situation in life where you didn't respond from an eternal perspective. What would have changed if you had?
2. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand?"
3. What will you do with this message?

## Session 3

### Raised Up with Christ to Live Anchored in Christ - Part 1

#### Introduction

1. You have been raised up with Christ to live anchored in Him. Col. 3:1-3
2. The ultimate goal in life:
3. What is life? A series of blessings and storms sent from God for the purpose of revealing the power of a relationship with God in Christ.
4. The Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
5. Powerless Gospel = Powerless \_\_\_\_\_ = Powerless \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We must live and teach a Gospel of power if we are to be...  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### A Powerful Provision

1. God has provided a powerful gospel with a powerful promise and a predictable purpose in Jesus, our hope. Hebrews 6:17-20
2. Our hope is in the gospel: What God has revealed in and through Jesus Christ. Col. 1:3-5

#### A Potent Gospel

1. **Who Jesus is.** Jesus Christ is God's Son Heb. 1:1
2. **What Jesus is.** He is our high priest. Heb. 4:14-16, 8:1
3. **What Jesus did.** After making purification for sins. Heb. 1:3
4. **Where Jesus is.** He sat down at the Father's right hand. Heb. 1:3, 12:3
5. **What Jesus is doing.** Where he intercedes for us (Heb. 7:25) and runs all things by the word of His power. Heb. 1:3
6. **What Jesus has purposed.** He will preserve us through suffering, trials, and temptations. Heb. 7:24-25; 10:39-11:2
7. **What Jesus has promised.** By giving us grace and mercy. Heb. 4:1, 16
8. **What believers must practice.** If we will draw near and hold fast our confession

#### Our Confession

Jesus Christ is God's Son and our high priest. After He made purification for sins, He sat down at the Father's right hand where He intercedes for us and runs all things by the word of His power. He will preserve us through suffering, trials, and temptations by giving us grace and mercy if we will draw near and hold fast our confession.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about Norm's definition of life: A series of blessings and storms sent from God for the purpose of revealing the power of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? How does such a view of life impact the way one would live?

2. How does James 1:22 and 2:17 relate to being anchored in Jesus Christ?
3. What aspect of "Our Confession" was most meaningful for you?

**Session 4**  
**Raised Up with Christ to Live Anchored in Christ - Part 2**

**Review of Part 1**

**A Prevailing Problem**

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ Heb. 2:1-3
  
2. Watch out for \_\_\_\_\_ Heb. 3:12-14

**A Precious Promise**

1. Grace. Heb. 4:16
  
2. Mercy. Heb. 4:16

**A Predetermined Purpose**

1. To teach His creatures that they can't have grace and mercy without a relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - a. He reveals the truth about you through events and relationships in life by the power of His Word. Heb. 4:12-13
  - b. He's shaking what you depend on instead of Him. Heb. 12:26-27
2. To test and produce the same kind of faith as that of Jesus Christ in His people—an unshakable faith.

**A Prevailing Practice: Draw Near! Hold Fast!**

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:1-2
2. Find a place to repent of drifting/unbelief. Heb. 12:1, 15-17
3. Give thanks to God or be consumed. Heb. 12:28-29

**Discussion Questions**

4. Do you drift in unbelief, and what happens when you do?
5. Why is it important to realize that we shouldn't react to the circumstances but respond to God in them?
6. If you or a friend hasn't had grace for an event or relationship in life, what does that mean? What should you do when you realize someone has fallen short of living by grace in life?

This message is a summary of the last six chapters of Norm's book, *Anchored in Christ: A Solid Rock in the Storms of Life*. It is available online at [www.spiritofelijah.com](http://www.spiritofelijah.com) or by calling 830-980-5606.

## Session 5

### Raised Up with Christ as Prophets

#### Introduction

1. If you have been raised up with Christ, then you are \_\_\_\_\_ with Him in His life and \_\_\_\_\_. Col. 3:1-3, 2:12, Rom. 6:5
2. What is the ministry of a prophet?
  - a. One who speaks God's Word for Him. Heb. 1:1-2
  - b. One who testifies of Jesus. Rev. 19:10
3. What are we testifying or proclaiming for God?
  - a. You live in God's presence.
  - b. You only see clearly from an eternal, heavenly perspective.
  - c. You may continually go to the Father in heaven through Jesus Christ.

#### The prophet's perspective is an eternal, heavenly perspective.

1. We see...
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly so we can repent.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly so we can praise.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly so we can live and teach.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly so we can love.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly so we can trust.
2. The Holy Spirit...
  - a. Is vital to the prophet's ministry. Rev. 1:10; 4:1-2
  - b. Reveals the other side of the veil. 1 Cor. 2:9-10
3. What did John see on the other side of the veil by the Spirit?
  - a. The door to heaven is \_\_\_\_\_. Rev. 4:1
  - b. God is enthroned and glorified as \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. God is our Creator, and thus we belong to Him. It's all about Him! Rev. 4:2, 11
    - ii. God, our Creator is our confidence. Acts 4:26-8; Acts 7:49-50; Rom. 1:25; 1 Peter 4:19; Rom. 11:36
  - c. Those raised up with Christ are \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Rev. 4:4
  - d. Jesus has overcome through His union with God and sacrifice. He has authority, knowledge, and power to reveal \_\_\_\_\_ in history for the people He purchased. Rev. 5:2-10
    - i. Jesus has overcome so as to reveal God's purposes. 5:2-5
    - ii. Jesus has all power and knowledge so is able to reveal God's purposes. 5:6
    - iii. Jesus' authority to work out the purposes of God is the source of praise, prayer, and worship of those who have been raised up with Christ. 5:7-9
    - iv. Those raised up with Christ will reign on earth as kings and priests. 5:10

**If you have been raised up with Christ, you speak God's Word in your world...**

1. By living raised up with Christ.
2. By speaking what God reveals in His Word and Life in Christ regarding life on this side of the veil.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What needs to change for you to fulfill your ministry as Jesus' prophet in your world?
2. How has this message impacted your view of yourself and your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
3. If you knew every minute that Jesus Christ sees God's will perfectly for you and has the power to bring it to pass in your life, how would that affect the way you live?
4. Read Rev. 5:2-10 and go into the heavenlies in spirit. Look at Jesus according to what God's Word reveals is true. Share with each other what you see and hear.



**Session 6**  
**Raised Up with Christ as Kings**

**Jesus is King of kings.**

1. Jesus testified that He was King. 1 Tim. 6:12-15 (Mark 15:2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How can a king suffer? Matt. 16:22-23; Acts 1:6

**Jesus has ALL authority NOW.**

1. He is far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion. Eph. 1:18, 20-23
2. He has all authority in heaven and on earth. Matt. 28:18
3. All things are subject to Him. Heb. 2:8
4. He is the King of kings. The chosen are the kings. Rev. 17:14; 19:16
5. How did Jesus overcome? He overcame through \_\_\_\_\_ to His Father's will. Rev. 5:5-6

**You have been raised up with Him NOW.**

1. Col. 2:12-15
2. Col. 3:1-3

**You reign NOW with Jesus.**

1. Rom. 5:17
2. 2 Tim. 2:12
3. 1 Cor. 4:8
4. Rev. 20:6
  - a. Jesus has reigned since His \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Believers have been priest to God since their first \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Believers have reigned with Him since their first \_\_\_\_\_.
5. 10 & 1000 represent God's authority.

**Jesus reigns through you.**

1. As prophets through His gospel. Rev. 20:1-2
2. As priests through His intercession. Matt. 6:10
3. As rulers through His Spirit. John 16:13
4. As judges through His wisdom. 1 Cor. 6:2-3

### **His Kingdom Come!**

1. It is a kingdom of power which began at Pentecost . Acts 1:6-8
2. It is not of this realm. John 18:36

### **If you have been raised up with Christ, you reign with Him NOW.**

1. You are conquering and binding the enemy with the power of the truth and the gospel. John 8:31-32
2. You are advancing His kingdom in the hearts of others as you live and teach the gospel.
3. You are overcoming Satan's lies and attacks by His truth.
4. You are bringing the will of God to earth through prayer. Matt. 6:10

### **Jesus is the King of Kings.**

1. Perseverance through tribulation reveals the kingdom has come. Rev. 1:9
  - a. In relationships - you respond with enduring \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. In circumstances - you respond with enduring \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. In persecution - you respond with enduring \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. In temptation - you respond with enduring \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus has made you a kingdom of priests. Rev. 1:6

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss why it is difficult to recognize Jesus as King with complete authority and power yet He suffered. How does Rev. 5:5-6 give insight into this seeming conflict?
2. Discuss why it is difficult to believe we reign as kings yet we still have tribulation and trials?
3. Imagine and discuss what heaven sees when a believer overcomes temptation, suffering, tribulation, and persecution by drawing near to the throne of grace and mercy and receiving what is needed in Christ.
4. Imagine and discuss what heaven sees if there were no enemies to rule over, no temptations to overcome, no suffering, tribulation, or persecution to endure? How can the glory of God be shown in the saints in such an earthly condition?
5. Share how the view of Jesus reigning through the saints by the gospel, the truth, prayer, and God's wisdom may effect the way you live.

**Session 7**  
**Raised Up with Christ as Suffering Servants**

**Jesus was a suffering King.**

1. This was unthinkable: He was King, yet suffered. Matt. 27:29, 37; Mark 15:2
  
2. God was pleased for Him to be a suffering servant. Is. 53:10-11
  
3. Jesus' ministry couldn't be completed without suffering. Heb. 2:9-10.

**You are called to suffer with Him.** Suffering with Him is evidence of sonship. Rom. 8:16-17

1. As prophets as you confront sin and speak the truth.
  
2. As priests as you pray and worship.
  
3. As kings as overcome your temptations and trials.
  
4. As servants as you follow your King's commandments and ways.

**You are to be servants with Him. Four attitudes of a servant...** Luke 22:26; John 12:26

1. Nothing you do is to be done for yourself-it's for Jesus. Rom. 14:7-9
  
2. Nothing is too low for you to do. John 10:15; 15:13; 1 John 3:16
  
3. Nothing you do requires acknowledgement. Luke 17:10
  
4. You cannot serve two masters. Luke 16:13

**How does a suffering servant-king respond to suffering?**

1. Rejoice!
  - a. It is for your maturity. James 1:2-4
  
  - b. You're rewarded in heaven. Matt. 5:10-11

- c. It's how you become salt and light. Matt. 5:13-14
  - d. It's how you glorify your Father in heaven. Matt. 5:15-16
  - e. Remember: You only see clearly from God's perspective. There's a crown for faithfulness. Rev. 2:9-10
    - i. The call of Jesus was not...
      - ii. The call of Jesus was...
2. With hope of gain - receiving life. Luke 9:23-24, Rom. 8:12-13, 1 Cor. 15:31
  3. Fix your eyes on Jesus' suffering and what it accomplished. Gal. 6:14
  4. You respond to the Lord. Rom. 14:4,8
  5. True followers of Jesus... Phil. 3
    - a. Have no confidence in \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. Treasure knowing Jesus above \_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. Enter into Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.
    - d. Press on toward the goal for the prize of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in Christ.
    - e. Paul is our example.
    - f. Watch out for the enemies of Christ who \_\_\_\_\_.
    - g. You have been raised up with Christ as a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Heb. 2:9-10. What are the implications of this verse for your lives?
2. Share with each other times when you have suffered for either speaking the truth, praying for others, overcome temptation, or served in His name.
3. Which of the four attitudes of a servant spoke most to your heart and why?
4. Which attitude of a servant will you seek to develop in the next two weeks?

## **Session 8**

### **Raised Up with Christ as Priests**

**A priest serves God on behalf of men and serves men on behalf of God.** Heb. 5:1

**Jesus has made us priests.** 1 Pet. 2:9, Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:6

**Your ministry is based on Jesus' ministry.** Heb. 6:19-20, Heb. 2:17

**Why is a priest needed?** You minister because of sins. Heb. 5:1

1. A priest deals with his own \_\_\_\_\_ first. Heb. 9:7; Is. 59:2; Ps. 90:8; 103:2-3; Col. 2:13-14
  
2. A priest stands in the presence of God. Rom. 5:1-2; Heb. 4:14-16
  
3. A priest \_\_\_\_\_ for those he represents. Heb. 7:25; 1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 6:18
  - a. You represent your family before God as head. 1 Cor. 11:3
  - b. Job is a good example of a dedicated priest to his family. Job 1:5
  - c. A husband's love for his wife fulfills the priestly ministry. Eph. 5:25-27
  
4. A priest ministers God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to those he represents. Heb. 5:1-4

### **The Call of the Priest**

1. The sacrifice has been made.
2. There is forgiveness and peace in the presence of God.
3. Come!

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Share about a time when you saw your father deal with his own sin. Did he do it biblically? What impact did it have on you?
2. What hinders a man from dealing with his own sin first in front of his wife and children? Share a personal experience.
3. Share about a time when someone ministered God's grace and forgiveness to you. What impact did it have on you?
4. How can a man apply the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for sins to the sins of others?

**Session 9**  
**Raised Up with Christ as His Temple**

**Introduction: The Gospel is foundational.**

1. The Father and the Son send the Spirit into the hearts of believers to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Spirit removes the veil so the spirit can \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You serve as a \_\_\_\_\_ in God's temple on earth-your body.

**You have been raised up with Christ to be God's temple.**

1. Your body is \_\_\_\_\_ temple. 1 Cor. 6:16-19
  
2. Your body is where you meet with God and He meets with you. It is where and how God is revealed on the earth through Jesus Christ.

**What you do with and in your body is your \_\_\_\_\_.** Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:20

**An eternal perspective is the foundation for a life of sexual purity.**

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ in God's presence. (Matt. 4:17; Ps. 139:2-3, 7-8, 12)
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ in God's presence. (Hebrews 4:12-13)
3. You will be \_\_\_\_\_ in God's presence. (1 Cor. 4:5)
4. Why are these things important?
  - a. Because sin's deception is based on the lie that \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps. 36:1).
  - b. Because you can't see God watching you, sin deceives you \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps. 36:2)
  - c. Because you will \_\_\_\_\_ of everything done in your body. (2 Cor. 5:10)
5. Sexual sin is no small sin.
  - a. The lie of lust is based on a low view of sin.  
"Sin is an anti-God allergy found in every human soul, the taproot of all active disobedience, all bad habits and inability to break them, all egocentric and self-serving motivations, all desires (lusts) in which the I-want syndrome called original sin finds expression, and all the unbelief of unresponsiveness to the Word of God that mark our lives." J.I. Packer on J. Edward's view of sin, A God Enhanced Vision of All Things, p. 104
  - b. A low view of sin comes from living by the flesh – \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. We feel the lure of \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii. We are blinded and deafened by momentary \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. We hear the lie that sin isn't that \_\_\_\_\_ so why resist.
- iv. One sin leads to \_\_\_\_\_ – lying, deception, theft, etc.
- v. We can't see that we are before God in His temple.
- vi. We can't see the spiritual effect on our families.
- vii. We can't see God's hatred for sin.
- viii. We can't see the effect of sin on ourselves and Jesus.

6. What does God see? 1 Cor. 6:15-20

**God delights in an offering of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in what you do in your body.**

1. Show gratitude to God in His temple by honoring the marriage bed. Heb. 12:28-29; 13:4
  - a. Fornicators:
  - b. Adulterers:
2. God's will for you is to maintain holiness and honor before Him. 1 Thess. 4:3-8
  - a. Holiness:
    - i. Sexual issues are issues of worship because it involves God's temple.
    - ii. Treat your body as belonging to God for His pleasure.
    - iii. Treat your body as belonging to your spouse for her pleasure.
    - iv. Treat other women's bodies as belonging to God and to someone else.
    - v. To act independent of your wife to satisfy selfish desires is to reject the image of God. Gen. 1:27
  - b. Honor: 1 Thess. 4:8
    - i. Honor His temple.
    - ii. Honor the Holy Spirit.
    - iii. Honor God's Word.
    - iv. Honor your wife.
    - v. Honor your brothers' wives.

### **Application**

1. Live in the presence of God.
2. What sexual sins has God seen you commit?
3. What will you do about your sins?
4. Repent for a lifetime. Stand before the cross and look at the effect of sin on Jesus then explain to Him and to yourself why you must do it again.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does having an eternal perspective affect your relationship with God?
2. How does having an eternal perspective affect what you do with your body?

3. What Scripture was most helpful to you?
4. Of whom are you most afraid? Other people? God?