

A LIFE THAT LIVES FAR ABOVE THIS WORLD

PART 4 EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO

Ephesians 2:5-6 **SLIDE**

... When we were dead in trespasses **[God] 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.**

INTRODUCTION

An old Pentecostal song I used to love singing is ...

'I am pressing on The Upward Way' (Higher Ground) by Johnson Oatman, Jr.

*I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

REFRAIN

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
(Where love and joy and light abound)
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

*I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

BUT WE SEE HERE IN OUR TEXT ... WE ARE ALREADY ON HIGHER GROUND ...

IN FACT ... WE ARE ON THE HIGHEST GROUND.

GOD HAS ALREADY RAISED US UP INTO THE HEAVENLIES BY HIS GRACE.

The problem is ... **we don't know where our new life is** ...

And therefore, we strive religiously to get to where we already are.

And we get condemned by our failure to actually achieve it.

NOTICE THE PATTERN & THE PROGRESS OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE:

- WE WERE **RAISED FROM DEATH** – **TOGETHER WITH JESUS**
- WE WERE ALSO **MADE ALIVE** – **TOGETHER WITH CHRIST**

Furthermore, we see here that God was not content to leave our spiritual new birth here on the earth ...

- **HE RAISED THIS NEW LIFE UP TOGETHER WITH JESUS INTO THE HEAVENS**
 - **NB: RAISED 'UP' & NOT RAISED 'FROM'**
 - **RAISED FROM** SPEAKS ABOUT US COMING OUT OF THE GRAVE OF DEATH INTO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST / WITH CHRIST
 - **RAISED UP** (HERE) MEANS **OUR ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN** ... JUST AS JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN **OUR NEW LIFE HAS ALSO ASCENDED INTO THE HEAVENLIES TOGETHER WITH HIM**

WE HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE WITH NEW LIFE

We made the point last week: If we had not been made alive, we would not have been able to enjoy our forgiveness and justification. We would have been forgiven and justified, BUT STILL DEAD ...

So today we make the point: If we had not been made alive - WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENTER GOD'S HEAVEN.

IT IS BEING MADE ALIVE WITH NEW LIFE THAT MAKES US ... ELIGIBLE TO ENTER GOD'S HEAVEN.

WITHOUT THIS NEW LIFE NO ONE COULD ENTER GOD'S HEAVEN.

The only life acceptable in heaven is a 100% pure life.

A LIFE OF HEAVEN HAS TO BE ... A 100% SINLESS LIFE ... A 100% HOLY LIFE ... WHICH IS THE NEW LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

THIS IS THE ONLY LIFE THAT CAN ENTER HEAVEN.

Jesus said it like this ...

John 3:5 **SLIDE**

*Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, **he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

(NB 'Water and Spirit' refers to our natural and spiritual birth)

**BUT LET'S TAKE THIS EVEN FURTHER ...
A LIFE OF HEAVEN NOT ONLY NEEDS TO BE
A SINLESS LIFE NOW ...**

**SLIDE A LIFE OF HEAVEN NEEDS TO BE ...
A LIFE THAT HAS NEVER SINNED**

Even if you got there and you'd only had one selfish thought as a little child ... you would be declared an interloper ...

THIS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU INELIGIBLE.

You say, well that counts me out!

I know I've sinned ...

In fact, Romans 3:23 tells me 'all have sinned ...'

Ah but dear friend, **the life you had before is dead and gone and this new life you have now is not the same life you had then.**

You see, this new life is not a patched-up life or a bad life that has been fixed.

It is a completely new life.

- GOD DID NOT MAKE YOU BETTER
- GOD MADE YOU COMPLETELY NEW

Your old life hasn't been bleached or sanctified by fire or washed clean. It was killed-dead forever ...

SLIDE

YOU HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE WITH A LIFE THAT IS NOT ONLY SINLESS NOW BUT A LIFE THAT HAS NEVER SINNED & NEITHER CAN EVER SIN

WHERE DID THIS LIFE COME FROM?

CONSIDER THIS ...

THERE IS ONE PERSON & ONE PERSON ONLY WHO LIVED A COMPLETELY, 100% SINLESS LIFE.

Jesus Christ, was tempted in all points ... yet He remained without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

JESUS NEVER SINNED

THIS IS THE LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN. YOUR NEW LIFE IS CHRIST'S LIFE.

SEE HOW PAUL SAID IT -

Galatians 2:20 **SLIDE**

*I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God ...*

Paul is saying ... The Old sinner I was is dead and I now live Christ's sinless life.

THIS LIFE IS A SINLESS LIFE ... NEVER HAS SINNED ... NEVER CAN SIN.

You see ... the life I now live is the life of Christ in me ... Not 'just as if' it never sinned, but a life that definitely has never ever sinned at all.

Colossians 3:4 NIV

*When Christ, **who is your life** appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

1 Corinthians 6:17 Berean Study Bible

*But he who unites himself with the Lord **is one with Him in spirit.***

God made us completely new ... 100% brand new ... without blemish at all ... Totally pristine!!! Absolutely holy!!!

In all my years in the Christian church ... no one ever told me this.

MORE AMAZING GRACE

We have seen that this amazing Grace refers to how God brought us out of the depths of death from under Satan's domination into the height of life.

We've learned, that what we have in the new creation life is far greater than the life we had before we were saved.

But there is one more great point we should consider.

We know we were saved from Adam's fallen state into Christ's sinless state.

**BUT WHAT ABOUT ADAM'S LIFE BEFORE HE FELL?
ARE WE RESTORED TO THAT LIFE?**

Consider this: God did not raise you from the grave of death back to Adam's pure life in the Garden of Eden before sin. God did not give you back the life that Adam lost in the garden.

Adam and Eve **WERE ABLE TO BE CORRUPTED** ...
They were not 'Born Again' of an incorruptible seed.

**BUT OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST ... CANNOT BE CORRUPTED
EVER! (see 1 Peter 1:3-4)
IT BELONGS TO THE HEAVENS ...**

The life you have now in Christ is a greater life than Adam had ... and an even greater revelation of the glory of His Grace.

**WE ARE GIVEN A RESURRECTED LIFE THAT BELONGS TO
THE HEAVENLIES**

**THIS NEW CREATION-LIFE IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN THE
ORIGINAL CREATION-LIFE.**

CONSIDER GOD'S FELLOWSHIP WITH MAN -

SLIDE

- **IN THE ORIGINAL CREATION ... GOD CAME DOWN TO ADAM TO WHERE HE WAS ON THE EARTH (Genesis 3:8)**

SLIDE

- **NOW IN THE NEW CREATION ... WE GO UP TO GOD TO WHERE HE IS**

Adam had not been to heaven, nor was he from heaven ...
God did not create Adam in heaven and bring him down to earth.
God Himself came down from Heaven to the earth to create this man from the earth, and breathed divine life into his soul.
Adam was a man of the earth in fact his name means 'earth'.

The Hebrew word for 'earth' is *adama*

1 Corinthians 15:47 NASB **SLIDE**

The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

- **ADAM WAS A MAN OF THE EARTH & HIS LIFE BELONGED TO THE GARDEN.**
- **WE ARE PEOPLE OF HEAVEN & OUR LIFE BELONGS TO THE HEAVENLIES**

God made a special garden ... a perfect garden ... a spiritually pure garden ... that was acceptable for God to dwell in on The Earth. Here He placed Adam, and here God was able to fellowship with him. (Genesis 3:8)

BUT ADAM COULD NOT ENTER THE HEAVENLY REALMS

OUR HEAVENLY LIFE

SLIDE

The Hebrew term for 'Heaven' or 'Paradise' is in fact 'Gan Eden' – meaning the Garden of Eden.

CAN I SUGGEST THAT EDEN WAS A REFLECTION / SHADOW OF SOME PART OF HEAVEN?

IT WAS HEAVEN ON EARTH FOR MAN.

BUT WHAT WE HAVE IN THE NEW CREATION LIFE – AFTER WE HAD SINNED - IS FAR GREATER THAN THE LIFE ADAM HAD BEFORE HE HAD SINNED.

GOD ISN'T REWARDING BAD BEHAVIOUR HERE ... GOD IS REVEALING HIS GREAT GRACE.

THIS LIFE IS LIFE THAT BELONGS TO HEAVEN

This New Life is not only eligible to enter God's Heaven ...
THIS NEW LIFE BELONGS TO HEAVEN.

Born Again literally means '**Born From Above**' (John 3:3)

Your New Birth is a Heavenly birth and belongs to God's Heaven.

Colossians 3:1-3 **SLIDE**

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

³**For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

... '**By grace you have been saved**' (Ephesians 2:5) - literally means – '**BY GRACE YOU ARE, HAVING BEEN SAVED**'

WE ARE WHO WE ARE BY HIS GRACE – WE HAVE A SPOTLESS PRISTINE LIFE ...

WHAT IS 'THE HEAVENLIES'?

THE HEAVENLIES IS THE SPHERE WHERE GOD MANIFESTS HIS PRESENCE OPENLY & HIS GLORY IS NOT WITHHELD ...

Revelation 21:23 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

The city has no need of the sun, nor of the moon, that they should shine in it; for the glory of God enlightened it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ... WITHOUT THIS LIFE ...
MOSES WAS TOLD, NO MAN CAN SEE MY FACE & LIVE ...**

BUT NOW ...

**YOUR NEW LIFE IN HEAVEN CAN LOOK UPON THE FACE OF
GOD**

Matthew 5:8 NIV

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

THAT IS A REFERENCE TO THIS NEW LIFE ...

THIS NEW LIFE IN US IS 'PURE IN HEART'.

**JOHN WHO HAD THIS NEW LIFE SAW THE THRONE OF GOD &
LOOKED UPON HIM ON THE THRONE ...**

LOOK AT JOHN LOOKING -

Revelation 4:1-3

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." ²Immediately I was in the

Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

JOHN SAW HIS GLORY ...

Revelation 22:8

... I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel ...

OUR NEW LIFE DWELLS AMONGST GREATNESS ... GLORY ...
UNFOLDING MYSTERIES ... THINGS THAT LEAVE US
BREATHLESS ... THINGS THAT MAKE US WEAK AT THE KNEES ...

WITHOUT THIS LIFE, MOSES COULD NOT ENTER GOD'S GLORY

Exodus 40:35 NASB

... Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

**NOW, WE ARE IN THE HOLY PLACE & CAN COME NEAR TO
HIM**

Hebrews 10:19-20 Berean Study Bible

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence **to enter the Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way opened for us ... ²²**let us draw near** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith ...*

OUR NEW LIFE IS IN HIS PRESENCE ... IN HIS GLORY ...

(Notice we enter into it ... it is not something we try and possess.)

BE HEAVENLY MINDED

Colossians 3:1-3 **SLIDE**

*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.*

³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

BRING YOUR MIND INTO LINE WITH YOUR LIFE.

DR MARTIN LLOYD JONES QUOTES

Do you know the heavenly influences in this life?

We stop at the forgiveness of sins and fail to see the heights of Glory.

The Christian is of necessity heavenly minded.

You can never be too heavenly minded.

The trouble with all of us is that we're not sufficiently heavenly minded ... We do not realise what's true of us.

The eyes of our understanding haven't been enlightened.

We can start to live in the victory of His resurrected power and Glory.

**COME TO WHERE YOU ARE
SEEK WHAT YOU'VE GOT
EMBRACE YOUR NEW LIFE
LIFT YOUR VISION HIGH.**