

# **Living Above the Clouds**

Have you ever felt like you're stuck in a storm with no way out? Like the dark clouds of life are pressing in, and you can't see the sun anymore? The truth is, no matter how dark the clouds are outside, just above them is a clear day.

## **What Does It Mean to Fall Short of God's Glory?**

Romans 3 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Many Christians focus only on the sin problem, but there's more to the story. Jesus didn't just come to take away our sins; He came to reconnect us to the glory we had fallen from.

Sin causes us to fall short of God's glory. When Jesus removes our sin, we're no longer disconnected from that glory. We can be reunited with God in every area of our life—spirit, soul, mind, and body.

## **How Does Transformation Begin?**

The transformation starts in your spirit when you make Jesus the Lord of your life. When you recognize you can't save yourself and turn to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, your spirit is made new. You become a new creation in Christ Jesus.

But it doesn't stop there. All things pertaining to your life are meant to become new:

- Your spirit is recreated instantly
- Your soul (mind, will, emotions) is being transformed daily
- Your body follows as you grow in faith

This transformation happens as we go from "faith to faith, glory to glory."

## **How Do We See God's Glory in Difficult Times?**

Remember when Jesus stood before Lazarus's tomb? Lazarus had been dead for four days, and Mary was grieving. Jesus told her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?"

In the midst of sorrow, grief, negativity, hopelessness, and loneliness, Jesus pointed to belief as the key to seeing God's glory. When we believe, we position ourselves to witness the manifestation of God's power in our lives.

## **What Keeps Us from Experiencing God's Glory?**

### **1. Casting Away Our Confidence**

Hebrews 10:35-36 says, "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

Many times, God puts faith in us, and we become confident about something. But then we get our eyes on other things and begin to lose that confidence. We cast it away.

Depression, sorrow, and joy are all choices. They're decisions about what we're going to believe. No matter how many negative things are happening around you, you can lift your eyes above them.

### **2. Lacking Endurance**

Faith requires endurance. You need to stick with it, keep believing, and not throw in the towel. The Bible says, "The just shall live by faith. But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38).

When God helps you take a few steps forward in faith, that's your territory now. Don't give up that territory. Instead, plan to take more territory!

### **3. Allowing External Things to Control Us**

In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul talks about running the race to obtain the prize. He says everyone who competes exercises self-control in all things.

Self-control means you're in control of yourself—not circumstances, not other people, not substances or habits. If something bothers you so much that you lose control, then that thing is controlling you.

Paul says, "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

Notice the distinction: "I discipline my body." Your body is not you—it's something you have and should control. When you're not feeling well, it's not really you that's unwell; it's your body. You can say, "I feel good, I feel fine. Body, come in line."

## What Does Complete Transformation Look Like?

Psalms 84:1-2 gives us a beautiful picture: "How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

When transformation is complete, your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—cries out for God. Your flesh isn't evil; it's just uncontrolled until you bring it into subjection.

The goal is to have all three parts of you crying out for the living God, walking in unity like the Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in complete unity, and you can be in complete unity within yourself.

## Life Application

This week, I challenge you to identify what's controlling you and take back authority over it. Maybe it's a habit, a substance, a relationship, or even just negative thoughts. Whatever it is, find the "plug" and disconnect it.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What areas of my life do I need to bring under God's control?
- What "grave clothes" am I still wrapped in that need to be removed?
- How can I practice lifting my eyes above the storms in my life to see God's glory?
- What one step can I take this week to break a negative pattern in my life?

Remember, you don't have to back up or back down. You have no "quitting sense." When you make Jesus the Lord of your life, you're spiritually alive. Now it's time to let Him unwrap all the grave clothes and set you completely free.

Say to yourself daily: "I feel good, I feel fine. Body, come in line. Emotions, come in line. Because I'm good. I'm saved. I'm born again. I'm above this."

If you only believe, you will see the glory of God in your life.

## Quotes

1. "Jesus came not only to take away our sins, but to reconnect us to that glory."
2. "When you make Jesus the Lord of your life—when you call on Him and say, 'I can't save myself. I'm a sinner, separated from God. I want to be right with Him'—you're stepping into the life you were created for."
3. "If you would believe, you would see the glory of God."
4. "When you make Jesus the Lord of your life, you are raised from the dead on the inside. It's the greatest miracle: your spirit comes out of death into life."
5. "Many people get saved and are born again—they're alive in their spirit—but they're still wrapped in grave clothes. Still bound by addiction, by pornography, by foolishness and the traps of this world."
6. "As we continue to draw near to God, the Holy Spirit—often through other disciples—starts to unravel those grave clothes. He peels away the layers, removing the things that bind us."
7. "Act like someone who believes the Bible—and watch what the glory of God does in your life. Just act like the Bible is true, and you'll see God move."
8. "Depression is a choice. Sorrow is a choice. Joy is a choice. It comes down to deciding what you will believe."
9. "No matter how fierce the storm, no matter how dark the clouds, just above them is a clear sky. The sun is still shining."
10. "The world didn't give me this joy—and the world can't take it away. We're not walking in the joy of a pay raise or material things—we're walking in the joy of the Lord."
11. "Every negative thing in your life—God can turn it around for good. No matter how bad it was or is, He can make it better than good. He'll make it God-sized good."
12. "We have to be careful—not to let our focus drift. God gives us faith and confidence, but when we set our eyes on other things, we begin to lose it."

13. "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."
14. "I feel good. I feel fine. Body—come in line. Emotions—come in line. Because I'm good. I'm saved. I'm born again. Hallelujah—I'm above this!"
15. "Like an airplane rising above storm clouds into clear skies, we can spiritually rise above life's darkness by setting our minds on things above."
16. "You must recognize that your body is not your true self—your spirit can feel good even when your body doesn't."
17. "The devil can't truly steal anything from you—he has to get you to surrender it. He needs your cooperation."
18. "We must recognize what controls us. If something dominates your life—if you can't lay it aside for even a week without withdrawal—it's time to take notice."
19. "The stormy sea cannot shake the peace of God—but the peace of God can calm the stormy sea."
20. "When your spirit, soul, and body are in agreement, the devil is outnumbered—all three parts of you can rise up, laugh, and say, 'Ha! You've got no hold here.' You laugh in the face of the enemy and push back with authority."

## **Verses**

1. Romans 3
2. Hebrews 10
3. Colossians 3
4. Psalm 84
5. 1 Corinthians 9
6. Isaiah 14

## **Summary**

Living above the clouds means recognizing that God created us for glory, not defeat. When we accept Jesus, our spirit is instantly renewed, while our soul and body transform gradually. The key to seeing God's glory is belief, even in difficult circumstances. Like Lazarus being freed from grave clothes, we too can be loosed from what binds us through consistent connection with God. By maintaining our confidence, distinguishing between our true spiritual self and our physical body, and setting our minds on things above, we can experience God's glory regardless of life's storms.