

God's Prepared a Table for You

In a world filled with darkness and negativity, it's easy to become overwhelmed by what we see around us. But as believers, we have access to something powerful - a different perspective that comes from setting our minds on things above rather than on earthly troubles.

The Table Prepared in the Presence of Enemies

God has prepared a table for us right in the midst of our enemies. This isn't a heavenly table we'll enjoy someday - it's available to us right now on earth. Even when surrounded by darkness and evil, we can feast and celebrate in the Lord.

No matter what happens, the devil loses and we win. Even if we don't experience God's best here on earth, we still come out on top because our eternal destination is secure. Our future is bright and exciting!

The challenge comes when we get distracted. If we spend too much time looking at the darkness around us, fear will grip us. That's why it's crucial to keep our attention on the table God has prepared for us.

Why Our Spiritual Transformation Matters

The way we live our lives here has eternal significance. When we step out of our physical bodies, we'll still be ourselves - the spiritual condition we've developed will carry over to eternity.

The Bible talks about living in such a way that we're not ashamed on that day. This suggests that it's possible for Christians to experience regret in heaven over how they lived their earthly lives. The Lord will wipe away every tear, which implies there may be tears that need wiping.

We don't just want to "get in" to heaven - we want to enter strong and full of faith.

Our Unique Position in God's Creation

Believers have a special opportunity that even angels don't have. Angels always see God's face, but we must walk by faith without seeing. This develops in us a kind of faith no other creature can develop.

The Bible says we will judge angels, and that angels desire to look into the things concerning our salvation. There are spiritual realities they can't fully grasp because they haven't experienced what we have - walking by faith in darkness while worshiping God without seeing Him.

How God Turns Evil into Good

One of the most powerful truths is that God takes what looks devastating and turns it around. What appears terrible often backfires on the enemy and advances God's kingdom.

Consider Stephen, the first Christian martyr. As he was being stoned to death, he looked up and saw heaven open with Jesus standing at the right hand of God. While everyone else saw only blood and death, Stephen saw glory. The Bible typically describes Jesus as seated at God's right hand, but in that moment, the King of Kings stood up to welcome His faithful servant.

Two Different Perspectives: Earthly vs. Heavenly

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

This doesn't mean being oblivious to what's happening around us. Rather, it means we don't set our minds on earthly things. We should be quick to get our minds on heavenly things.

When we see troubling events in the world, we can immediately turn to God's Word for comfort. Like in Psalm 46, which reminds us: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."

Hearing vs. Listening

There's a profound difference between how we interact with worldly information versus God's truth:

"We glance at the world, but we gaze at the Master."

"We hear the world, but we listen to the Lord."

We can hear what's happening around us while actively listening to what God is saying about it.

Responding vs. Reacting

Most people simply react to what happens around them, but believers are called to respond in faith. A reaction comes from the flesh, while a response comes from the spirit.

When something troubling happens, we can pause, listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and respond according to faith rather than fear. This is walking in the spirit rather than in the flesh.

The disciples often missed what Jesus was telling them about His coming death and resurrection because they were too naturally minded. They couldn't grasp spiritual realities because their focus was too much on earthly concerns.

Training Our Spiritual Perspective

What we consume trains us how to respond to life. If we constantly fill ourselves with the world's perspective through media and entertainment, we'll react just like the world does in times of trouble.

Instead, we need to train ourselves by spending time at God's table - feasting on His Word, praying, and communing with the Holy Spirit. This gives us a different perspective that allows us to see beyond the immediate circumstances to what God is doing.

Life Application

This week, take a careful look at what's filling your mind. Are you spending more time consuming worldly perspectives or God's truth? When troubles come, are you reacting from fear or responding in faith?

Make a commitment to "sit at the table" God has prepared for you each day through prayer and Scripture. When you encounter troubling news or circumstances, practice pausing before you react. Instead of being overwhelmed by what you see, ask:

- What does God's Word say about this situation?
- What might God be doing that I can't see right now?
- How can I respond in faith rather than react in fear?
- What spiritual truth can I hold onto in this moment?

Remember that everything the enemy intends for evil, God can turn around for good. The next time you face a challenge, declare in faith: "This is all backfiring on you, devil. What you meant for evil, God is turning for my good and His glory."

By setting your mind on things above, you'll develop spiritual strength that will transform not just your earthly experience, but your eternal destiny as well.

Quotes

1. God has prepared a table for you in the presence of your enemies.
2. Right in the midst of the darkness, in the middle of all the evil and wickedness in this world, you and I have a table where we can sit down.
3. Yes, there's a table waiting for us in heaven, but He's also prepared a table for us right here on planet earth.
4. But if you get distracted, sitting at the table, turning your head, looking out the window, you'll see the darkness around you, and if you stare at it too long, fear will grip you.
5. We know what the devil is doing in the world to cause harm and destruction. But thank God, He's given us eternal food.
6. Even the pain and suffering we face in life will backfire on the devil and turn around for our good.

7. We fight the good fight of faith — and it's a good fight because we always win. Even the process of fighting changes us; it transforms our lives forever.
8. How you live here matters. How you are transformed here is what you carry into eternity. When you step out of your body, it's still going to be you.
9. Your spiritual condition — not physical, but spiritual — is who you'll be when you enter heaven. So we want to enter strong, living in such a way that we're not ashamed on that day.
10. There are lessons we can only learn here on earth. That's why the Bible says the saints will judge angels. Angels have seen God's glory, but they've never experienced suffering or darkness like we have.
11. Angels help us, and all they have to do is look over their shoulder to see the face of the Father. That's encouraging, isn't it?
12. We must see God through the eyes of faith. That's why we can develop faith like no other creature God has created. That puts us in a place of authority and understanding of His heart like no one else.
13. Scripture says angels desire to look into the things concerning our salvation. They can't fully grasp it, because it's a different level — the level of faith we walk in here without seeing Him.
14. We don't judge ourselves by the flesh, but by what God says in His Word.
15. We don't just react to life; we respond in faith. Reaction is of the flesh. Response comes from the Spirit, from conviction, from knowing the Holy Spirit.

Verses

1. Psalm 23:5
2. Colossians 3:2
3. 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
4. Revelation 18:9-20
5. Romans 7
6. Psalm 46:1-4
7. Acts 7

Summary

In a world filled with darkness, believers have access to a powerful perspective by setting their minds on things above rather than earthly troubles. God has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies - not just in heaven, but right now on earth. Our spiritual transformation has eternal significance, as the condition we develop here carries over into eternity. By training ourselves to respond in faith rather than react in fear, we can see beyond immediate circumstances to what God is doing. This heavenly perspective allows us to feast at God's table even when surrounded by darkness.