



## LIVING FROM ABOVE

### Session 12: Fulfilling Heaven's Purpose

*Pastor Dale Campbell*

#### I. REVIEW: AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

##### A. No Separation

1. Heaven and earth were never intended to operate independently of one another.
2. God's plan was always for the two to work together, with Heaven influencing earth.

##### B. The Influence of Heaven

1. In his dream, Jacob witnessed angels ascending and descending on the ladder from heaven to earth.
2. Heaven conducting business with the earth!

##### C. Jesus: The "Ladder" Replacement

###### 1. John 1:51

**NKJV** "And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'"

**NLT** "Then he said, 'I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.'"

**AMP** "Then He said to him, 'I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man [the bridge between heaven and earth].'"

2. Jesus would become the ladder / bridge / stairway between heaven and earth. He is the connector of that which had been separated.



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#### II. Through Christ, Heaven Is Open

##### A. Hebrews 4:14-16

**NKJV** "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**"

- Come boldly.
  - Approach.
  - Come near.
  - Draw nigh.
1. Although we are positioned in Christ in heaven places, it is also necessary for us to APPROACH the throne of Grace boldly through prayer to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.
    - a. Ascension and approach are necessary to obtain.
    - b. The key is to distinguish our position in Christ from our practice of fellowship and receiving.

#### III. JESUS LIVED AS THE SON OF MAN, ASCENDING AND DESCENDING BY PRAYER

##### A. The Prayer Life of Jesus

###### 1. Scriptures:

###### a. **Luke 3:21-22**

**NKJV** (*at His baptism*) "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.'"

###### b. **Mark 1:35**

**NIV** "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where **he prayed.**"

###### c. **Luke 5:15-16**

**NKJV** (*Jesus prayed often*) "However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed



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by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and **prayed.**"

d. **Luke 6:12-13**

**NKJV** (*prior to choosing the 12*) "Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles..."

e. **Mark 6:45-46**

**NKJV** "Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray."

f. **Luke 9:28-29**

**NKJV** "Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became* white and glistening."

2. Jesus stayed connected to *heaven* and the *Father* through prayer.

- a. Jesus **never ceased** being the **Son of God** but, during His earthly ministry, He truly lived and functioned as **a man in fellowship with the Father.**
- b. He prayed from his earthly position as a MAN.

- **Philippians 2:6-7**

**NKJV** "...who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men."

**GW** "Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance."

3. Jesus was—and is—our example!

- a. How to live on earth, yet as a citizen of heaven.
- b. How to ascend in prayer to receive everything needed from the Father.
- c. How to descend back into the issues of life with Heaven's answer.



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#### B. The Real Purpose of Prayer

1. Prayer is the connection through which the will of heaven is invited, received, and expressed in the earth.
  - a. We pray to receive heaven's wisdom, insight, direction, and supply—what to say, what to do, and how to respond—so that the will and influence of Heaven may be manifested in every circumstance we face while living on the earth.
2. Prayer is not an escape.
  - a. Prayer is our gateway into an open heaven, allowing the supply of heaven to flow into the issues of earth.
3. The early Church prayed when met with opposition—and the place was shaken.
  - a. **Acts 4:31**  
**NKJV** “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”
  - b. They prayed → the place was shaken → they were filled → they spoke with boldness.
  - c. The manifestation of HEAVEN occurred as a result of prayer.
  - d. Through prayer they ascended before the throne of grace, and through their prayer the manifestation descended in such a manner that the place was shaken!
4. Dorcas resurrected:
  - a. **Acts 9:36-41**  
**NKJV** “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid *her* in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring *him* not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought *him* to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. **But Peter**



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**put them all out, and knelt down and prayed.** And turning to the body he said, 'Tabitha, arise.' And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her *his* hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive."

- b. Note how in a previous miracle (the healing of the man at the gate who was lame), Peter simply operated in authority, without prayer.
- c. In this case (Dorcas had been dead for some time), he needed a different level of help! He didn't just attempt to raise the dead without first praying.
- d. Here, Peter's response was to ascend / to turn heavenward / to look upward to another realm.
  - He ascended in prayer prior to turning to the body!
  - He put out every other distraction so he could hear from heaven.
  - Once he prayed and received the help and answers of heaven, he turned to the body and raised her from the dead.
- e. We will get greater results if we take time to first ascend to the throne in prayer rather than simply acting out what we have always done in the past.

#### IV. FULFILLING HEAVEN'S PURPOSE!

##### A. The Christian Life Is a Life of Ascending and Descending Through Prayer

1. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places, yet we have been assigned to live and serve on the earth.
  - a. Through prayer, we turn our attention above and approach the throne of grace to receive heaven's supply.
2. We **ascend to receive**; we **descend to release**.
  - a. We ascend in prayer to receive God's wisdom, grace, strength, direction, and understanding. We learn how to respond, what to say, what to do, and how to help.
  - b. Then, we **descend** into the circumstances of everyday life carrying what we have received from above.
3. Prayer is not simply about getting help for ourselves.
  - a. God gives us heavenly wisdom and supply so that we can become a source of help to others.



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#### B. His Will, His Plan, and His Purpose

- Ascend to discover His will—descend to carry it out.
- Ascend to understand His plan—descend to walk it out.
- Ascend to receive His purpose—descend to fulfill it.

##### 1. Scriptures:

###### a. **Ephesians 1:7-9**

**NKJV** “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself...”

###### b. **Philippians 2:13**

**NKJV** “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.”

###### c. **Romans 8:28**

**NKJV** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”

##### 2. It is important to understand His divine purpose for our life.

- a. The purpose for the believer is to be a carrier of heaven—a carrier of what is from above. We are receivers from heaven / distributors on earth. We are ambassadors who ascend as sons to receive from the Father and descend as ambassadors to represent the King.

##### 3. God's House:

###### a. **Genesis 28:16–17**

**KJV** “And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

###### b. **1 Peter 2:5**

**KJV** “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

###### c. **Hebrews 3:6**

**KJV** “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”