

Rise Above All Challenges

A. You Were Raised with Christ.

1. You will rise above all challenges because you were raised with Christ, sitting at the right hand of God. Col 3:1-3
 - a. **Col 3:1-3** 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. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
 - b. Matthew 28:18-20 (Amplified)
¹⁸ Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age."
2. What are the things on earth that you should not set your mind on? Col 3:2, 5-9
 - a. Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
 - b. Col 3:6-7 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.
 - c. Col 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.
 - d. Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.
 - e. All sin, all sickness, all poverty, all pain, all death, all evil, all challenges.
3. What are the things that you should seek and set your mind on which are above? Col 3:2, 10, 12-17
 - a. Col 3:10 Put on the new man.
 - b. Col 3:12 Be holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.
 - c. Col 3:13 Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
 - d. Col 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- e. Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
 - f. Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 - g. Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
 - h. Things that are of a good report.
4. What is the result when your life is hidden with Christ in God? Col 3:3b
- a. For you died and you were raised with Christ and you will appear with Him in glory. Col 3:1-4
 - 1) ¹ **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. ³ **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, **then you also will appear with Him in glory.**
 - b. Gal 2:20 **I have been crucified with Christ** [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me;** and the life I now live in the body **I live by** faith in (by adherence to and **reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God**, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

B. Know the Exceeding Greatness of God's Power. Eph 1:17-23

- 1. You will rise above all challenges because you will know the exceeding greatness of His Power.
 - a. Eph 1:17-18 God has given you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. The eyes of your understanding should be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling. And know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
 - b. Eph 1:19-23 And you should **know what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,** ²¹ **far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.** ²² **And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,** ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

C. You Sit in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:1-6

1. You will rise above all challenges because you sit in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Eph 2:1-2a And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world,
 - b. Eph 2:2b according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
 - c. Eph 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
 - d. Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
 - e. Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
 - f. **Eph 2:6** and raised us up together, and made us **sit together in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

D. God's Word Will Accomplish the Desired Results.

1. You will rise above all challenges because God's Word will accomplish the desired results.
 - a. Luke 10:19 (Amplified) Listen carefully: I have given you authority [that you now possess] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and [the ability to exercise authority] over all the power of the enemy (Satan); and nothing will [in any way] harm you.
 - b. Is 55:11 (Amplified) So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; it will not return to Me void (useless, without result), without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
 - c. 1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
 - d. Matt 24:35 (Amplified) Heaven and earth [as now known] will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

A GOD-GIVEN VISION TO RISE ABOVE ALL CHALLENGES:

Jesus sitting on His Throne; and we, His believers, are seated together in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's Words will not pass away. (Eph 2:6; Col 3:1-3; Eph 1:20-22)



AFFIRMATION

**In the Name of Jesus,
I have been raised with Christ
and seek those things which are above.
I will continue to set my mind on things above,
not on things on the earth. Because Jesus put all things under
His feet, all things have also been put under my feet. My life is hidden
with Christ in God. I sit together in the Heavenly Places in Christ
Jesus, far above all principality, power, might, and dominion, and
every name that is named, not only in this age,
but also in that which is to come. Amen.**

This vision that Annie W. Ford received from the Holy Spirit confirmed Pastor James' teaching, even though she was unaware that he had planned to teach this topic. Praise God!