

I Lift Up My Eyes!

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus *looked up* and said.... (John 11: 41)

There is always a need to look up to heaven amidst the storms in our lives. This simple yet seemingly difficult act signifies more than just the physical lifting of one's head and eyes. In doing so:

1. You change your line of sight. You no longer focus on your present circumstances. Now you can see beyond your problem.
2. There is a shift in one's mental position. No longer bow your head in shame and defeat, hopelessness and sorrow, but you recognize that there is a mighty God in heaven who is bigger than your problem. The battle is no longer yours, but God's. This is where you "let go and let God." Trust Him with all your might!
3. You are ready to activate the power of prayer and praise.
4. You recognize that your prayers and praise should **always** come before your utterances. When confronting difficult situations, always pray and praise God **before** you speak! This will ensure that you not only say the right thing, but you will also keep a cool head!

"Then Jesus looked up and said...."

The 'looking up' came before the 'saying..'

5. The pain that you may be experiencing becomes more manageable. Knowing that Jesus is on your side does not mean that there is no pain or hurts. We are only human! It means that you are comforted, and can get through another day. You find rest in Jesus! In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said:

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Permit me to make a quick comparison on how the lifting of the eyes can cause us to see beyond our limitations. Matthew 14:13-21 gives the account of how Jesus fed 5000 men. In verse 17, the disciples respond to Jesus' statement that they need to feed the huge crowd:

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

*.... Taking the five loaves and the two fish and **looking up to heaven**, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.... ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied.. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children."*

The disciples saw their limitations and impossible situation: ONLY five loaves and two fishes to feed thousands of people! Jesus, on the other hand, raised his gaze unto heaven – beyond the line of sight of his immediate problem, and through His prayer and praise He and was able activate the powers of heaven to bear on his seemingly impossible situation. We need to follow Jesus and do the same thing when dealing with life’s challenges!

In both situations, Jesus and his followers were in the same physical space dealing with the same set of problems – a dead Lazarus and a huge crowd of people with little food to feed them. The difference is in your gaze! The people remained focused on their problems and in their minds’ eyes they could see no real solutions to their problems. Jesus, however, activated the power of his faith and belief, as he turned his eyes upwards to the heavens “where cometh His help!”

What is that seemingly impossible problem with which you are wrestling? Know that God is already at work! The stone has been rolled away. A path has been cleared, not for Jesus to enter, but for your dead Lazarus to be brought back to life and to come out from its place of bondage! What is your Lazarus moment? A broken heart? A failed relationship? A son or daughter lost to drugs, gambling or prostitution? No work? Sickness to your body? A difficult Math problem with no solution in sight?

Like Jesus, we need to take our focus off the problem and lift up our eyes unto heaven. Let us pray!

“Heavenly Father,

I lift up my eyes unto You, O God, and await Your supernatural intervention in my situation. I thank You for Your Son Jesus – my Teacher and Comforter. Lord, I refuse to allow my emotions, pains and hurts to keep me dwelling on my problems. Today, I receive the strength through Christ, to raise my head and to see beyond my present problem. In faith, I look towards heaven for my miracle. To God be the glory! In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”

“¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ²My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” - Psalm 121:1-2(KJV).