

2. Living at High Altitude

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Subtitle: Your words determine your altitude

- We are at the beginning of a new year
- Many people are still reeling from all the stresses of last year
- God does not want us to start this year tired, deflated or discouraged
- He wants to:
 - strengthen us
 - impart courage into us
 - instil fresh hope and renewed vision for our lives

Isaiah 40:28–31 (NKJV) *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, **the Lord**, the Creator of the ends of the earth, **neither faints nor is weary**. His understanding is unsearchable. **29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.** 30 **Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.***

These are timeless promises from God that are available to anyone who chooses to receive & activate these specific blessings by waiting on the Lord.

God's message to us at the beginning of this year is that:

- He gives us His strength to meet the challenges of 2021
- He raises us up to new heights, above where we walked last year

1. Confessing & declaring victory in the midst of challenges

Habakkuk 3:19 (NirV) *The Lord and King gives me strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me walk on the highest places. This prayer is for the director of music. It should be sung while being accompanied by stringed instruments.*

This verse is part of a song that was written by prophet Habakkuk. He instructed God's people that, no matter what, they should sing and declare that "God strengthens us and helps us to walk in high places".

There is a "high place" determined and allocated for every believer.

However, God needs us to speak (and sing) words of victory instead of words of defeat.

- We cannot rise above the level of our own confession
- What you say with the words of your mouth determines how high you will rise
- With our words we either create a “lift” or a “drag”
- James chapter 3 teaches us that our tongue is like a rudder of a ship
- Mark 11:23 tells us that “... *we will have whatever we say*”.

Habakkuk 3:19 (Brenton) *The Lord God is my strength, and he will perfectly strengthen my feet; **he mounts me upon high places, that I may conquer by his song.***

- We sing songs of victory in the middle of the battle
- We conquer by the words of our “song”

King David also wrote a song and instructed the worship leader to lead God’s people in singing very similar words:

Psalm 18:32–33 (NirV) *God gives me strength for the battle. He makes my way perfect. **33 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me stand on the highest places.***

2. God raised us up with Christ & seated us with Him in heavenly places:

Ephesians 2:1–6 (NLT) *Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. **4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.** (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) **6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.***

- When we were born again, we were united with Jesus Christ
- (1 Cor. 6:17 .. born again people are joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him)

- At that time, God raised us up from the dead along with Christ
- He seated us together with Christ in the heavenly realms
- NKJV – in heavenly places

Ephesians 1:20–21 (NKJV) ... (God the Father) *raised Christ 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.*

- Christ is seated at the right hand of God (the Father) in heavenly places
- We are seated together with Christ (Eph. 2:6)
- This means we are seated “**far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named**”
- “Principality, power, might and dominion” is reference to satan and all demon spirits
- Positionally, every believer is seated “**far above**” satan and all demon spirits

So many Christians are trying to rise above the circumstances of life. They’re trying to get out from under satan’s control, and get above demonic influence and dominance.

Question: How do I get there?

Answer: I am already there!

Colossians 1:13–14 (AMP) *[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.*

- Jesus Christ has paid the price through His sacrificial death on the cross
- Through the shedding of His blood, we have been delivered from satanic control
- At the point of our surrender to Jesus Christ, we were taken from the kingdom of darkness, and transferred into the Kingdom of light where Jesus Christ rules and reigns

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) *And they overcame (the accuser of brethren) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

Say what the Word of God says about you.