

SET YOUR MIND ABOVE

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
SET YOUR MIND ABOVE
Bible Text: Colossians 3:1-4

Prayer

Eternal Rock of ages, we thank You for the gift of life through Your mercy. As we are about to learn at Your feet tonight, Lord, let Your Spirit take total control from beginning to end and let Your name be glorified in Jesus name we pray! (Amen)

Introduction

I would like us all to follow this teaching carefully even as the Holy Spirit teaches us. In times like this, we must keep talking to one another about things that will make us not lose focus on eternity, for the world is currently in a state of disarray, yet, this will not be a genuine excuse if we do not meet up to heaven's standard on the day of judgment, the judgment day is fast approaching and we must not get distracted.

Bible Text

Colossians 3:1-4

- 1** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
- 2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- 3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
- 4** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Study

Looking into this verse of the scriptures, there are things we must understand: in Christ, those who have genuinely given their lives to Christ are no longer alive to the flesh. The Lord Jesus Christ came to die to put an end to the passions of the flesh, and His resurrection is symbolic to us. **Romans 6:5 KJV** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: This does not mean that we would die as He did, but it simply refers to our carnal nature,

which is anti-God and would not succumb to the dictates of the Spirit of God. If we are planted together with Him, putting our faith in Him, we surrender our carnal nature to Him, and then we receive a new life in Him, just as when He also resurrected and received everlasting life. Our old self, which is unrenewed, was nailed to the cross with Christ so that our body, accustomed to sin, might be made ineffective and inactive, will no longer have dominion over us. **Romans 6:6 KJV** *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Therefore, if indeed we are dead with Christ, we should then live with Him in His new kind of life, which is holy and without sinning. Those who are saved have changed position in the realm of the spirit; we no longer operate in this realm. That's why we are to set our minds on things above. **Colossians 3:2 KJV** *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.* Our spirit has changed its location in the realm of the spirit, no longer controlled by the flesh; now it is seated with Christ in the heavenly places. Therefore, our minds must change location. It is God's responsibility to place our spirit far above principalities and powers. It is our responsibility to put our minds where our spirit is, above. Our minds, set on the things above, operate fully because their knowledge increases in Christ. This is what would give us the understanding that we are no longer of the world or subjected to the dictates of the flesh. Our true life is no longer on earth but hidden in Christ, Who is seated in heaven. Therefore, for us to operate fully as God intended, we must begin to place our minds on the consciousness that we have left this realm and are no longer operating here but in a higher realm in Jesus. Like someone in an aircraft, we can no longer do the things others do because we are dead to sin. **Romans 6:2 KJV** *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* Sin operates in the lower realm, so we are dead to it.

All these are set in motion through our faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:12 KJV** *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.* Paul emphasizes that we are raised with Him. Therefore, if we have risen with Him, we must seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting. The problem many face is their reluctance to do their part, which is to place their minds where their new life currently resides. The moment a person accepts the Lordship of Christ, God positions that person's life in Christ. No power can touch them in that position

because their life is hidden in Christ. However, if someone neglects their part, failing to set their mind on things above, they continue to operate in this earthly realm, yielding to the dictates of the flesh and lacking the power rooted in Christ to displace the power of Satan. God has exalted Christ far above all principalities, powers, might, and dominion, not only now but also in the coming world. Since we are now seated with Him in heavenly places, we also have that dominion if we come to understand it.

Ephesians 1:20-23 KJV Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own 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 world, but also in that which is to come: [22] And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, [23] Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Satan exploits believers' ignorance, as they often operate based on what is physically apparent. The spiritual world controls the physical world, and Christians, as spiritual beings and Christ's representatives on earth, need to be aware of their true identity and nature. Satan attempts to conceal this knowledge to maintain control, knowing that unaware individuals can be easily influenced. Just as a prince unaware of his authority over his father's slaves may be sent on slavish errands. *This is a serious matter*

Are you still with me?

The Lord Jesus Christ has truly placed us in a high position with Him; this is why He said, "ye are gods." We have authority over the kingdom of darkness because a God possesses supreme authority, and the forces of that realm must obey us since we've changed levels in Christ. However, more problems arise when our minds are set on the things this world offers; Satan gains legal ground over us. Satan's constant pursuit is to distract God's children from heavenly things, focusing them on earthly matters, as he seeks to control them—being the god of this world, with all material things under his influence. The reason earthly things should have no meaning for God's children is that everything we own in Christ's Kingdom is eternal, while every earthly thing is temporal. Sometime ago, the Holy Spirit told me that as God's children, we have no rights on earth, meaning we shouldn't struggle for the things of this world. This is because our citizenship is not of this world but in heaven. We are mere citizens passing through this wretched world. It is foolishness that makes a person struggle for the world with Satan. This is why the Word urges, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," as it is passing, but many are captivated by the

visible things, pursuing ephemeral and vain aspects of this world that appear beautiful. Satan knows that all things of this world are materials meant for burning in the end, but he deceives those whose minds have not shifted to the heavenly realm. Satan thought the Lord Jesus Christ Himself was earthly-conscious during His time on earth, enticing Him with the vain glory and riches of the world. In **Matthew 4:8-10 KJV**, *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. [10] Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

When Satan saw that this approach didn't work with the Lord Jesus Christ, he left Him for a while. It appears to be one of the most potent weapons in Satan's arsenal, as evidenced by its placement as the last temptation. However, the Lord Jesus Christ resisted every attempt, as nothing of earthly value could appease Him. Talking about fame, wealth, sexual pleasure, or material things holds no meaning for someone who has detached from them. Such a person cannot be enticed because they no longer lust after these things. **James 1:14-15 KJV** *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* Satan seemed to think that the Lord was like any other man on Earth, attempting to use the same method to tempt Him. Yet, Christ never coveted the things of this world because everything in it is temporal. Therefore, it is essential not to set our affection on temporary things. Pursuing what doesn't last long makes no sense. Can you name something physical that would last forever in this world? Absolutely nothing! So, why chase after worldly things at the expense of your soul? Why lay up treasures on Earth? **Matthew 6:19 KJV** *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:* In reality, you own nothing in this world. The house you build, the cars you buy, the certificates you struggle to obtain, even the spouse you marry – none of it is truly yours because they are all impermanent. Why then accumulate treasures on Earth?

Luke 12:16-21 KJV *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: [17] And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? [18] And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build*

greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. [19] And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. [20] But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? [21] So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

If you understand this teaching, say, *may I set my mind above*

In this parable, the Lord Jesus Christ said God called the rich man a "fool," implying that a person's wealth is not necessarily a reflection of wisdom; one can be rich yet lack wisdom, as seen with Nabal. God's concern about riches is not that it is a sin, but rather that it shouldn't be acquired at the expense of one's soul. It's not a sin to have a job, but when such jobs hinder one from serving God, it becomes foolish, as earthly possessions are left behind at death. Some miss Bible studies or completely forsake the presence of God due to their jobs, essentially making their jobs their god. Accumulating wealth on earth without using it for the expansion of the Kingdom is what makes one a rich fool. There are many such individuals in the body of Christ today who amass treasures on earth rather than in heaven, placing their minds on earthly things. Some in this group argue about tithing, neglect to give offerings or support God's work, and some even avoid attending church if they see construction ongoing, unwilling to contribute to building the house of God. These individuals may only realize the futility of their earthly wealth in heaven. It is expedient that we change our mindset by consciously and consistently setting our minds on things above through the constant renewal of our minds. **Romans 12:2 KJV** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Setting one's mind on things above must be done deliberately and regularly since the mind is naturally inclined towards visible things. For a true shift to occur, serious work needs to be done in the place of the Word and prayer for transformation.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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