

Rise Above All Challenges

You should be praying these scriptures on a regular basis. Let's study them more so we can learn to rise above all challenges at a higher level.

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.

- **Jesus Christ** is not Jesus' first and last name, but **refers to His name and His title**. The title of **Christ** (the Greek for **Messiah**) refers to **Jesus** as the **anointed one** (literal meaning in Hebrew) and also refers to **the anointing upon Him**. Jesus pointed to this as He read from the scroll of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me" (Luke 4:18).
- Jesus is sometimes referred to as "Jesus Christ" and other times as "Christ Jesus." It is easy to think they are just a different way of saying the same thing, **but it's not**.
- Let me clarify the difference to you found on our ABC Website: www.jesusthechristmadeplain.org
- Living in **Jesus Christ** means living with Jesus as **Savior**. You are born again into the Family of God; you have the right to use the Name of Jesus; you have your Salvation Package but with limited access to it; you live under grace, and so to be absent from the body is to be with the Lord, since heaven is our home.
- Living in **Christ Jesus** means living with Jesus as **Lord**. You are **living in His Resurrection Power as you overcome carnality by walking in the Spirit**, and having full access to your Salvation Package as you partner with God.
- Living in **Christ also means living in Him** continuously (i.e., living with Him **as Lord at all times**);
- furthermore, **it means you will be alive and remain at the Rapture** to be caught up to be with Him forever.
- All the powerful Scriptures about all we can do in **authority and power are referenced with Christ or Christ Jesus** and **are activated when we live with Jesus as Lord (Our Ruler)**.

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.

A Christian must die to the things of the flesh or the things of the flesh may make him/her die.

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.

2 Timothy 3:1-7 (NKJV) 3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

c. Col 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:8 (AMPC) But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

d. Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (AMPC) 22 Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; 23 And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], 24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

e. All sin, all sickness, all poverty, all pain, all death, all evil, all challenges. All these things block your prayers and keep you from staying in the Kingdom of God.

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.

You cannot put on the new man until the old one is taken off (take off the old robe and put on the Robe of Righteousness and leave it on like the Prodigal Son). It must replace the old. Your spirit was born again, but your flesh must die to Christ Jesus.

You must choose to put on the character of God you want to conform yourself to be like Him! **You must practice behaving like your Lord and Ruler, Jesus, so He will rule over your flesh and ungodly nature.**

Birds of a feather flock together. Spend more time with God and you will become more like God. This is why the angel that John saw in his vision looked like Jesus.

b. Col 3:12 Be holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.

Any time you are offended, unforgiving, or angry you are not walking in Holiness and you have taken off the Fruit of the Spirit and Robe of Righteousness and put back on the old one. Choose to put on the Fruit of the Spirit in God's love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility and self-control.

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.

Complaining is a sin. Bear the other person' faults by extending grace to him/her and praying for them to change instead of complaining that he/she has not changed. Speak the Word of God over that person to change his/her weakness into a strength.

- **Example – Do not say:** You always do stupid things.
- **Instead, change it to:** In the Name of Jesus, I declare over you that you have the Mind of Christ and use God's wisdom in every situation because you are smart and can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens you. What the devil meant for bad, God is turning it around to become good for you, in the Name of Jesus.

d. Col 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

You learn to rise above all challenges to a greater degree when you remember these very important teachings that Apostle Joshua taught on April 4th that Love Is the Glue (or Bond) of Perfection and on April 14th taught Part 2 Whom He Foreknew.

- Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of **Christ (Messiah and Lord)**, let us go on unto **perfection**;
- Rom 8: 29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestinated** to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- Rom 8:30 Moreover **whom He predestinated**, these **He also called**; **whom He called**, these **He also justified**; and **whom He justified**, these **He also glorified**.
- These are All Completed Works. **You were predestinated, You were called, You were justified and God will be glorified through you.** These verbs are all completed one-time actions; just as you were healed by the stripes of Jesus. **Believe it and act on it.**
And God is going to use you whom He called to do BIG things for His Kingdom! That's why He called you!!!
- Heb 10:14 (KJV) For by one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified.
- Heb 10:14 (AMPC) For by a single offering He has forever completely **cleansed** and **perfected** those who are **consecrated** and **made holy**. It's in the past tense and that means you have already received that because it was done for you by Jesus at the cross!

- Eph 1:4 Just as He **chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...
 - Rev 21:27 **But there shall by no means enter it (New Jerusalem)** anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who **are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**
 - John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
 - **Keeping in mind Apostle Joshua's great teachings as part of a foundation, we are going to build upon that to study an additional perspective to remind ourselves to operate in who we are in Christ Jesus; so we can be the miracle workers who live and remain as our normal daily lifestyle. We should be using our Godly authority and dominion to rule and reign in this life in Dunamis Dynamite Resurrection Power operating through us as we prepare for the Second Coming of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.**
 - **In the Name of Jesus, as Pastor of ABC Church, I pray that everyone in our church will be fearless going through the End Times since we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. I also pray that we will live and remain and our names will stay written in the Lamb's Book of Life; and we shall enter into the New Jerusalem as the Holy Spirit helps us to rise above all challenges to a greater degree.**
 - **Above all these things we put on love, which is the glue and bond of perfection. God foreknew each of us and predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. In addition, in the Name of Jesus, we have been forever completely cleansed, perfected, consecrated and made holy, and without blame in Christ Jesus in love, making us chosen ones to live in the New Jerusalem.**
 - **If you agree with this prayer...**
 - **Please say, "In the Name of Jesus, I agree with this prayer, Amen."**
- 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.
Phil 4:5-7 (AMPC) 5 Let all men know and perceive and recognize your unselfishness (your considerateness, your forbearing spirit). The Lord is near [He is coming soon].

6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

7 And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Our Lord and Ruler).

- 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.

Operating in God's wisdom makes you overcome challenges as you are a hearer and doer of His Word. Singing spiritual songs praises God which stops the attacks of avenger. Are you going through a challenge now? How often do you sing praises to God of your victory??

- 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.

We must be a thankful people. 1 Thess 5:16-18 (Amplified)

16 Rejoice always and delight in your faith; 17 be unceasing and persistent in prayer; 18 in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

- h. Things that are of a good report.

Believe in the good report or the devil will make sure the bad report dominates your thoughts. Bring those negative thoughts into captivity. You receive what you say. You say what you think. Think only on those things that are of 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.**

Romans 8:13 (Amplified) for if you are living according to the [impulses of the] flesh, you are going to die. But if [you are living] by the [power of the Holy] Spirit you are habitually putting to death the sinful deeds of the body, you will [really] live forever.

- 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.

This is a very important Scripture for you to live to remain powerful against the wiles of the devil as a spiritual warrior when you stay in true Godly humility. Bind the demons of pride, arrogance, haughtiness, mind control, and controlling spirits by humbling yourself to be vessels of honor to God. Don't take glory for yourself. Always glorify Christ Jesus, your Lord and Ruler. Let Him rule over you as you serve God as His Ambassador of Heaven. Then you can rule over everything on the earth, under the earth and above the earth.

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.

LET'S LOOK AT THE ILLUSTRATION ON THE LAST PAGE.

This means that when you stay sin free you remain in the Kingdom of God and continue sitting in High Places with Jesus far above earthly challenges. When you sin you de-throne yourself and leave the spiritual realm where your protection and power is and go back into the fleshly realm. Put the devil back under your feet where he belongs!!

- 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,
Stay on God's course, doing things His way, not your own way.
- b. Eph 2:2b according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
It's better to obey than to sacrifice.
- 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.
1 John 2:16 (Amplified) For all that is in the world—WILL NOT BE A PART OF ABC CHURCH. WE WILL NOT HAVE the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and with it its lusts [the shameful pursuits and ungodly longings]; but the I decree that We, at ABC Church are ones who do the will of God and we carry out His purposes therefore, we will live forever!!

18 ...It is the last hour [the end of this age]; and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming [the one who will oppose Christ and attempt to replace Him], even now many antichrists (false teachers) have appeared, which confirms our belief that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us.

I PRAY First John 2:20 OVER ABC CHURCH, IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

But you, **ABC CHURCH MEMBERS** have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error],

- d. Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
Because God's mercy is new every morning!
- e. Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
Hebrews 4:15-16 (Amplified)
15 For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin. **16 Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favor] with confidence and without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].**
- f. **Eph 2:6** and raised us up together, and made us **sit together in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**
Therefore, arise to live above our challenges because we fight the good fight of faith from a victorious perspective, not a perspective of defeat, doubt or fear.

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.
Why be afraid of the enemy that your King has already defeated? Greater is He that is IN YOU, than he that is in the world. You have to believe that more than ever now!!

All sickness can be destroyed spiritually (Ps 107:20 Amplified) He sent **His word** and healed them, and rescued them from their destruction.
Now you use your authority to speak God's Word aloud and it will heal you and rescue you from destruction!

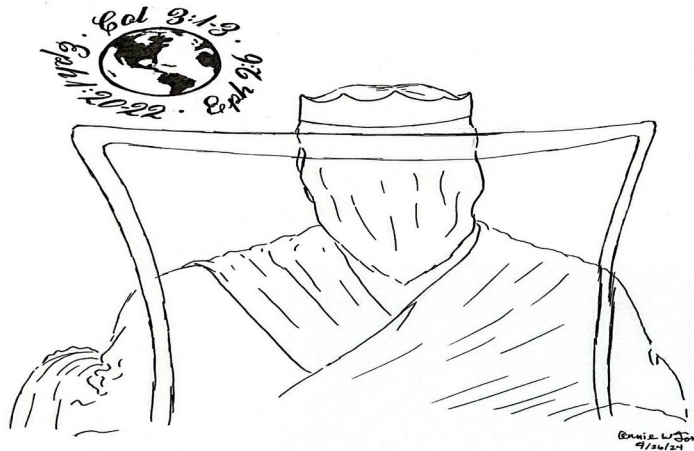
- B.** Is 55:11 (Amplified) So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; it will not return to Me void (useless, without result), without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
- Psalm 103:20 (AMPC) Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His commandments, hearkening (obeying) to the voice of His word.
 - So you must use your voice to speak out loud God's Word so the angels of God can hear it, obey your command through that Word and get it done for you.
 - Hebrews 1:14 (AMPC) 14 Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation? The angels of God are to assist every Believer!
- 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.
Hebrews 11:3 (AMPC) By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.
- D.** Matt 24:35 (Amplified) Heaven and earth [as now known] will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
God's Word is in the spirit realm accomplishing its job. Your faith links the unseen and brings it so you can see. You must believe it even, if you cannot see it, then you will have it! Faith for that thing will no longer be needed when you can see it.

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)

This Illustration shows where you are seated WITH CHRIST JESUS ON HIS THRONE. The challenges you are looking at are not as big as you think compared to how small they are when you stay IN JESUS far, far above in the Heavenly Places looking at how small the Earth is from there. The power of Jesus to eradicate or resolve those challenges is ALREADY INSIDE of you. You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). If you endure, you shall also reign with Him (2 Tim 2:12). Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it...they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but you for an imperishable crown (1 Cor 9:24,25b).

**WEAR YOUR CROWN AS PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD!
USING GOD'S AUTHORITY. DOMINION. AND REGAL POWER!**



**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!

Part 2

E. God's Vision for You is Vital.

1. Prov 29:18 (KJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish.
2. Prov 29:18 (AMPC) Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.
3. Habakkuk 2:2-3 (AMPC)
2 And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.
3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfillment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day.
4. Eph 2:10 (AMPC)
For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].