

A.R.M.

Above
All

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional



Ephesians Ch 1, v 21

far ABOVE ALL rule and authority and power and dominion, and ABOVE every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Jesus is seated in the highest place of power and rule. After resurrecting from the dead and ascending to the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He's demonstrated supreme power over all spiritual rulers and authorities. Jesus doesn't obtain a position or rank that He ever lacked. He doesn't need any higher status, nor can He ascend any higher in power or rank since He is God. But, Jesus does descend into the earth to die as one of us, in order to become the first of resurrected humanity. As the perfect, resurrected human, He ascends far above all spiritual rule and authority on our behalf. His name is above all names in the sense that His name alone grants forgiveness of sins and righteousness. No other name can save from spiritual death. Jesus' name is above all names in the sense that He has the greatest reputation, the highest honor, and He possesses the supreme authority that every knee will bow to.





Ephesians Ch 3, v 20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly ABOVE ALL that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

God's powerful ability is above all expectations or thoughts that we can have. Our imagination can't come close to what God is actually capable of. We have some idea, but God's ability to perform is not limited to our imagination. When God answers our prayers, He doesn't do so according to our expectations or limited imagination. He answers according to His own infinite power which has no human restrictions. God is able to go above and beyond all of our hopes and expectations when He moves in our life and answers our prayers.



Connecting the Verses

God's ability is according to His infinite power, and this power is best seen in what He has accomplished for us through Jesus Christ. God raised His Son from the dead and seated Him in the heavens as a demonstration of the same power that's at work in the lives of His children. When we think of Jesus ascending above all possible rule and authority, we should remember just how much our God is capable of, and how far He is willing to go for us. If He demonstrated that power for us when we were sinners, what can we expect His power will accomplish in our lives now that we are His children? The greatness of God's power is most clearly seen in the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, so nothing will top that.



Connecting the Verses (Continued)

But, that same power is at work in our lives when God chooses to act and respond to our prayers. When we think of God's power that's seen in the work of Christ, it should stir up our faith when we pray. We would never know to ask for what God has given us in His Son. So, when we pray, we need to remember that God's ability is not limited to our expectations or words. We need to remember that Jesus is the very best God could give. And, if He gave us His Son, what else is God willing to give us when we pray?





Ephesians Ch 4, v 10

He who descended is the one who also ascended far ABOVE ALL the heavens, that he might fill all things.

Jesus doesn't ascend far above the Heavens because He lacked that status. He does it for our benefit, because we lacked what He provides through His victory. Jesus cannot climb any higher as the God of the Heavens. So, in order for Jesus to ascend, He first has to descend into our world to become one of us. Jesus becomes one of us, takes our death, pays for our sins, and resurrects to new life as the perfect human. Then, He ascends to the right hand of the Father above all the heavens in order to fill all things (mainly His people). Jesus is supremely above the highest places you can think of in our universe. He sits as the One who upholds the universe by the word of His power. He pre-exists all the Heavens, so the heavens rely on Him. Whether the sky, outer space or Heaven itself, Jesus is in a higher place of prominence and power as the One who sustains all things.



Connecting the Verses

God is above all and has ultimate power over the universe. The Lord's ability to perform is in accordance with His infinite power. This supreme power was put on full display when He raised His Son from the dead and seated Him in the Heavens above all spiritual rule and authority as the name above all names. Jesus has not only ascended far above all spiritual rule and authority, but above all the heavens as well. Everything is underneath the feet of Jesus and He has filled His people with His Spirit and seated them with Him in the heavenly places. Since we're seated with Jesus above all our spiritual enemies, we have access to this same power that raised Him from the dead and seated Him in the heavens. This divine power is at work towards us who believe because Jesus has made this power accessible through His death, resurrection and ascension into Heaven where He sits enthroned above everything in existence.





Ephesians Ch 6, v 16

ABOVE ALL, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

In addition to all of the other pieces of armor, we're to take up the shield of faith. Paul says the shield of faith is of highest importance. Our faith in Jesus is like a shield we take refuge behind. Without faith, we are defenseless and vulnerable. Our faith in Jesus is what makes the other pieces of armor useful. Faith seems to be most important in every situation as we trust in Jesus to be our refuge, not just in the middle of spiritual warfare but in every situation.





Connecting the Verses

Our faith is of most importance, because of who we're trusting in. In spiritual warfare, our only hope is Jesus. He's the One who has been seated above all spiritual rule and authority as the supremely transcendent One. Everything is underneath His power and charge. He has the name that is above every name. He sits exalted above all the heavens, and He invites us to come and find safety in His name. What makes us eternally safe is the fact that we've taken refuge in Jesus and have trusted in His name alone for salvation. What makes us safe in spiritual warfare is the fact that God defends us with His eternal power. God's transcendent power is at work in our lives so that we can experience victory in spiritual warfare. As we do battle with the spiritual forces of evil that Christ has conquered, we need to rest in His work and rely on His unimaginable power. We are seated with the One who is above all power, rule and authority.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 15-23

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord
Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my
prayers,
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in
the knowledge of him,
18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know
what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches
of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward
us who believe, according to the working of his great might
20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion,
and ABOVE every name that is named, not only in this age
but also in the one to come.
22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him
as head over all things to the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



Connecting Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul prays that God would help the church to know God better. And, we know that God will not answer this prayer according to Paul's expectations but according to His own divine power which exceeds Paul's ability to ask or think. Paul prays that the church would know the hope that God has called them to and that hope is in the One who is seated above all spiritual authority and rule in the heavenly places. Jesus is our hope and His triumphant victory is proof that He is worthy of our hope. The source of our hope is the God who is above all the heavens and has demonstrated His love for us in a way that is above all imagination and comprehension.

Paul prays that God would open our eyes to know the power that is at work toward us who believe. And, this power is seen best through the work of Jesus, who is seated above all spiritual rule, authority, and every name that is named.



Connecting Ephesians 1:15-23 (Continued)

The power that is at work in our lives is the unstoppable power of God that has conquered all of our enemies. What God has done for us is above our imagination. We would've never known to ask for what God has given us in Jesus. God's power and love for us is above all our thoughts and expectations.

But, God has made it possible for us to know His love and power better everyday. Jesus sits supremely above all powers and we can know that same divine power and experience it daily. Because Christ has supreme power and sits enthroned above all things, He is a strong refuge to those who trust in Him.

We're called to trust in Christ for salvation but also to hide behind Him daily as our ultimate source of safety in this life. If He is capable of conquering all of our spiritual enemies once and for all, then He is capable of protecting us on a daily basis.



Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our
Lord
Jesus Christ,
15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is
named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the
riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might
through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is
the width and length and depth and height—
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power
that works in
us,
21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all
generations, forever and ever. Amen.



Connecting Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul approaches God as the One from whom all the saints are named. In other words, Paul comes to God as His loving Father who is above all the Heavens And, Paul prays specifically that God would strengthen His people to know the incomprehensible love of God. When the church is filled with the incomprehensible love of God, they are filled with His fullness. And, God is able to answer this prayer in a way that is above our ability to ask or think, because God answers this prayer according to His own divine power. The same power that seated Christ above all spiritual rule and authority, is the same power that enables us to know the transcendent love of God which surpasses knowledge.

The love of God transcends this world and can't be fully understood by limited human minds. This is what it means that God's love is incomprehensible. But, God's love is knowable. God's love is truly above our understanding, but we can still know His love better each day.



Connecting Ephesians 3:14-21 (Continued)

We should long to know the love of God. And, since God is love, we should long to know this God who sits enthroned above all things. We should love to know the gospel better. God's love is best seen in the person of Jesus who laid His life down so that we could be seated with Him above all spiritual forces of evil. God is love and His love is expressed through His decision to descend from Heaven into our world to die as one of us. We need to know this love so we can walk in the love of God.

To live out the love of God is to live a life that is above this world. If we want to live a life that glorifies God, it starts with knowing His great love. When the love of God controls our lives, we will truly be living a life that's worthy of our position in Christ. We are seated with Christ, who is above all, and this position enables us to walk in His love and live a life that transcends this world system.



Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 7-12

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,



Connecting Ephesians 4:7-12

When Jesus conquered all spiritual forces through His death and resurrection, there were rewards that came attached to His victory. You might call this the spoil of war. Jesus shares His spoil with us even though He did all the work. This is an act of God's grace; that we get to share in the inheritance and victory of Jesus. When Jesus ascends above all rule and authority, He brings us with Him through our faith. We get to enjoy the rewards of Jesus' victory.

These gifts include, but are not limited to: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and shepherds. We would've never known to ask for such gifts, but that didn't stop God from giving them to us. These positions in the church are purposed for the growth and edification of the body. The believers who possess these roles are called to train and equip believers to build up the body, to live above this world. The atonement of Christ is what made these gifts possible for the church.



Connecting Ephesians 4:7-12 (Continued)

Jesus models for us how we ought to use the gifts of His grace. Before Jesus ascended, He chose to humbly descend into our world and sacrifice Himself for our good. We are called to imitate the self sacrificial love and humility of Jesus by living for the benefit of others. And, God equips us for this kind of lifestyle by granting us His divine power through His Spirit. The same power that Jesus exercises above all spiritual forces, is the same power that enables us to live humbly in self-sacrificial love for others. This way of life is above this world system.

This is the heavenly way of life God has called us to. And, because this lifestyle is above this world, we need spiritual strength from beyond this world to effectively live it out. This strength is made accessible through Jesus who seats us in heavenly places above this world and all spiritual rule. When we pray for the strength to live as citizens of God's kingdom, we can trust that God will answer us according to His power.



Ephesians Chapter 6, v. 14-20

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,
having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the
gospel of peace;
16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will
be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of
the Spirit, which is the word of God;
18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the
Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance
and supplication for all the saints—
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I
may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery
of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I
may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



Connecting Ephesians 6:14-20

The armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. In the middle of heated spiritual warfare, one of the most important things we're called to do is to continue trusting in Jesus and what He's done for us. We're told to take up the shield of faith above all. Why is our faith most important?

There is no righteousness, peace, faith, or salvation without faith and trust in the truth of Jesus. Faith is above all, because it is the foundation for everything else. Faith is above all, because it is the first line of defense and it is the only defense mechanism that we hide behind for safety. Faith in Jesus is your shield every single day when you engage in spiritual warfare. What can extinguish the flaming darts of the enemy? Our trust in the finished work of Christ, and our belief in who He is.



Connecting Ephesians 6:14-20 (Continued)

Why is faith of utmost importance? Faith in and of itself is not incredible. Our faith has substance and power because of who our faith is in; and His name is Jesus. We take refuge in the one who is far above all spiritual rulers and authorities. We find safety in the One who has the name above all names. We trust in the unstoppable power of God which is at work in our lives to accomplish above all that we can ask or think.

When we take up the shield of faith daily, and choose to confide in Jesus and His finished work, there is no limit to what the power of God can accomplish through that act of faith. We don't hide behind someone who is incapable or weak. Our shield is an unstoppable defensive force because He is the only One who is far above all the heavens. Our trust is in someone who is seated in the highest place of authority, power and rank. This is why our faith is of highest importance on a daily basis.



Connecting Ephesians 6:14-20 (Continued)

When we trust in Jesus, who is seated above all spiritual forces in the Heavens, we are accessing strength and power from Heaven that won't fail. In this spiritual warfare, we need spiritual strength and spiritual protection, and this comes from our daily decision to trust in Jesus for eternal security and safety. He is our eternal refuge, and when we continue believing in the simple gospel each and everyday, we will access the unstoppable power of God, which isn't just able to get us through spiritual warfare, but can accomplish above all that we can expect or imagine.

If you want to rise above the daily spiritual battles of life and experience victory in the name of Jesus, you need to meditate on the simple gospel of Jesus, grow in that understanding, and continue believing in what Jesus has accomplished for us.



Connecting Ephesians 6:14-20 (Continued)

If you want the kind of life that is above this world, you need to daily rest in the finished work of Christ and continue hiding behind Him in times of distress and turmoil. Jesus is our shield, and our faith in Him is what grants us access to His divine protection and strength every single day as we wage warfare with the spiritual forces of darkness. But, we're not shielded by someone who can lose. We're shielded by the One who is above all the heavens, and possesses unstoppable power for His people to lean on.



