

The Ascension of Christ

It's time to keep LOOKING UP!

Acts 1:9-11 (NKJV)

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

What does it mean?

The ascension literally means that Jesus ascended, or was taken up, to Heaven .

This is significant as it shows that he has returned to Heaven after completing his mission on Earth. Jesus is in Heaven with God, until He decides to send Jesus to Earth for the final judgement. We await with great hope and expectation for His Second Coming!

The Ascension is not only a great fact of the New Testament, but a great factor in the life of Christ and Christians, and no complete view of Jesus Christ is possible unless the Ascension and its consequences are included.

It is the consummation of His redemptive work.

The Christ of the Gospels is the Christ of history, the Christ of the past, but the full New Testament picture of Christ is that of a **living Christ**, the Christ of heaven, the Christ of experience, the Christ of the present and the future. In HIM we live and move and have our being!

The Message:

We may summarize what the New Testament tells us of our Lord's present life in heaven by observing carefully what is recorded in the various passages of the New Testament.

- He ascended into heaven (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9);
- He is seated on the right hand of God (Col 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12);
- ***Jesus Himself stated in John 16:7, "It is to your benefit that I go away..."***
- **He bestowed the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.**
- **The Church is powerless without Holy Spirit, yet many continue with programs that exclude HIM.**
- ***Someone once said, "If The Holy Spirit left the church, most would not know and will continue with their program. How sad indeed!"***

- He draws people to The Father.
- He convicts sinners. He goes into the deepest part of the depth of our very being to transform us.
- Something wonderful happens when we yield, surrender to Him.
- He makes us new on the inside. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- He removes the heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh.
- One cannot get saved without the work of The Holy Spirit.
- He reveals the beauty, the wonder, the glory, the magnificence and radiance of Jesus to us.
- He opens our eyes, hearts and minds to the LOVE of God, The LIFE of God and to our desperate need of the saving grace of Christ.
- He brings glory to Jesus. He shines the light on Jesus.
- He points people to Jesus.
- He manifests the healing, saving, regeneration and transforming power of God in people.
- He is “the promise of The Father”.
- He is the fulfillment of Joel 2:28; Isaiah 44:3 & Isaiah 32:15.

Jesus, Through The Holy Spirit Power:

- He added disciples to the church (Acts 2:47);
- He worked with the disciples as they went forth preaching the gospel (Mark 16:20);
- He healed the impotent man (Acts 3:16);
- He stood to receive the first martyr (Acts 7:56);

- He appeared to Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:5);
- He makes intercession for His people (Romans 8:26; Hebrews 7:25);
- He is able to aid the tempted (Hebrews 2:18);
- He is able to sympathize with us (Hebrews 4:15);
- He is able to save to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25);
- He lives forever (Hebrews 7:24; Revelation 1:18);
- He is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 7:26; 8:1; 10:21);
- He possesses an in-transmissible or inviolable (never to be broken) priesthood (Hebrews 7:24);
- He appears in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24);
- He is our **Advocate** with the father (1 Joh 2:1)

His exaltation to the right hand of God meant:

(1) **the proof of victory** *[Ephesians 4:8 \(NIV\)](#) This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”*

(2) **the position of honor**

[Psalms 110:1 \(NKJV\)](#) “The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

(3) **the place of power:**

[Acts 2:33 \(NIV\)](#) “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

(4) the place of rest ("seated")

His work is done!

Mission accomplished!

Hebrews 1:13 (NIV) To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

(5) the place of permanence ("for ever")

He forever lives to make intercession.

Jesus is praying for us!

He is our advocate, representing us in heaven.

Hebrews 6:20 (NIV) "where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 7:17 (NIV) For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."