

LIFT UP YOUR EYES

Luke records the words of Jesus who prophesies about the destruction of the Temple and the signs of the End Times.

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken (Luke 21:26 KJV)

What we look at, or look to, is critical especially in times of great instability.

In our times it is critical that, as God's children, we look to Jesus.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 BSB)

The temptation, though, is to be intimidated by what we see around us (think Joshua and Caleb and the 12 spies: *Numbers 14:38*).

If we gaze too much upon the problem, we can fall prey to fear. Rather than on what God says in His Word about the world (and us).

In our personal lives we can be overwhelmed by the challenges or troubles we face if we forget to ***lift up our eyes.***

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God (Psalm 42:5)

What we focus on is critical. How we see things is critical.

In life, we need to have the right perspective.

God helps us to gain His perspective through the Word and by the Holy Spirit.

'I pray that the eyes of your heart might be enlightened' (Ephesians 1:18)

What do we see if we lift our eyes?

- **God**

His greatness, His love, His heart.

*“To whom will you liken me? Or who is my equal? Asks the Holy One. **Lift up your eyes** and look to the heavens: Who created all these?” He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and*

mighty strength, not one of them is missing (Isiah 40:25-26 NIV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1-2 BSB)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, (Hebrews 12:2 BSB)

- **Your inheritance**

Genesis 13:14 KJV And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

Genesis 13:15-17 NIV All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.”

The promise given to Abraham is fulfilled through Christ. *We are children of Abraham though faith in Jesus, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:29).*

- **Your call**

John 4:34-36 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

³⁵Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

When we look up, we begin to see our God given call and purpose.

- **Jesus' coming**

What do we do when the world around us convulses, when circumstances are threatening, when others are failing for fear?

Jesus commands: *So, when all these things begin to happen, **stand and look up**, for your salvation is near!” (Luke 21:28)*