

SUBJECT: SITTING WITH CHRIST

SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 2:6. "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

OBJECTIVE: Having been united with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, the Believer is to reside in the two aspects of "sitting-in-Christ," i.e., rest and authority..

INTRODUCTION

The three postures of the Believer as revealed in Ephesians are:

(See reference at end of this handout.)

1. To Sit – Ephesians 2:6
2. To Walk – Ephesians 4:1
3. To Stand – Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14

Before the Believer in Christ can properly walk or stand in the spiritual sense of these words, it is of vital importance that he first learn what it means and how to live in the truth of "sitting properly" in Christ.

SITTING = REST

- a. Christianity says God has done everything in Christ, and the Believer simply steps by faith into what God has done. Christianity does not begin with a "do," but with a "done." God has blessed us, and we are to sit and enjoy His blessings.
- b. The spirit of rest: Something has been finished; work stops; we rest.
 - 1) John 6:28, 29. Then said they unto Him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered, and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.
 - 2) John 17:4. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work thou gavest me to do.
 - 3) Ephesians 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
 - 4) Hebrews 4:9 – 11. There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.
- c. Immediately following being "raised," the Believer is commanded to "sit."

Isaiah 52:1, 2. Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean, Shake thyself from the dust, arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem, loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

- d. God, the Father, and God, the Son, "sit." (God works then sits/rest; the Believer sits/rests, then works). After God's work of creation, He sits/He rests. After Jesus' work on Calvary, He sits, as well, at the Father's right hand.
- 1) Genesis 2:1, 2. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.
 - 2) Revelation 3:21. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.

SITTING = AUTHORITY

The value of authority (the right to act) depends upon the power (the ability to act) behind the user.

Behind the authority possessed by the Believer, there is a power infinitely greater than that which backs his enemies and which they are compelled to recognize.

Authority = delegated power

The delegation of authority and/or power

GOD, THE FATHER, POSSESSOR OF ALL POWER

- Psalm 62:11. God hath spoken once, twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God.
- Genesis 18:14. Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee , according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.
- 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

GOD, THE FATHER, "DELEGATES" POWER TO GOD, THE SON

- Matthew 28:18. And Jesus came and spoke unto them saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.
- Matthew 26:64. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said; nevertheless, I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
- 1 Peter 3:22. (Jesus Christ) Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

GOD, THE SON DELEGATES POWER TO THE BELIEVER

- Luke 9:1. Then He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils (demons), and to cure diseases.
- Luke 10:19. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- Ephesians 1:22; 2:6. And (God) hath put all things under His (Jesus') feet (the Believer), and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- Colossians 1:12, 13. Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet (fit) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Jesus Christ's position is at the right hand of God. His people occupy "with Him" the same position. This is a portion of the "all spiritual blessings" mentioned in Ephesians 1:3.

The Believer has been made "to sit" with Christ; that is to share His throne, or to partake of the authority which the throne represents.

The Believer who is fully conscious of God's power behind him, and of His own authority thereby, can face the enemy without fear or hesitation.

**BE THOU EXALTED, LORD,
IN THINE OWN STRENGTH;
SO WILL WE SING
AND PRAISE THY POWER.
(Psalm 21:13)**

* REFERENCES:

Sit, Walk, Stand, by Watchman Nee

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