

May 17, 2015

## Arise And Come Up Higher

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Coming up higher is a positioning of ourselves, getting in the right position where the blessings of the Lord are and where God can use us is really important. We are like athletes, being recruited to play a specific position and if we don't follow in that position things don't go well.

In the 20th chapter of 2 Chronicles we see how Jehoshaphat was concerned about the battle that was pending, he sought the Lord regarding what action he should take, but God told him to get into position himself and his people and watch what the Lord was going to do. The battle would be the Lords.

What is the church's position? The church has gotten out of position because of doing things "politically correct", allowing the cares of the world to have first priority in their lives. People must be fed with the word of God, being in the right position in order for God's blessing to come. There are hindrances that cause people to not be positioned; the most obvious is allowing the cares of the world or the pressures of life to smother out the flame of the spirit of God within us.

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened *and* depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness *and* headache *and* nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and *worldly worries and cares* pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap *or* a noose; 35 For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. 36 Keep awake then *and* watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength *and* ability *and* be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man." AMP

Jesus is speaking prophetically of the end time in this verse and this is some of the things that would be happening at the closing of the age. Worry and care will ensnare people just like all the other things mentioned, these things coming on unaware will be positioning us in a wrong place. It will affect everyone; the temptation will weigh everyone down. How are we going to handle it? It must be handled because if ignored it will handle you becoming a snare or entrapment to you.

Cares means to be drawn in a different direction, it is designed by the low level devils to disguise in such a way that it seems right, to be drawn away from the presence of Jesus, getting us out of position. Their deception is designed to draw us away from the answer. Mary and Martha had to make the choice to not be drawn out of position and away from Jesus.

God can be speaking to us but because we are out of position we are not aware of what He is saying.

Phil 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your

requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." KJV

Don't be weighed down with anxiety and worry, letting frustration enter in, don't be over anxious for anything. Instead of worry, in everything by prayer and thanksgiving, let our requests be known to God. This is being in proper position with God, being in the peace of God, having His joy, not being robbed by all the worries and cares that are designed to pull us away.

Prayer and worship will put us in proper positioning.

Joshua 1:2 "Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." KJV

Joshua is getting ready to take over the leadership of Moses; God is speaking to him regarding this position. He is telling him to arise and get to a higher level, not letting the cares and worries take first place. Joshua will have to cross over the Jordan.

Arise has two different meanings which must be discerned, who is doing the speaking. 1) if man is saying "arise" it means to get up, but 2) if God speaking it means put first things first and get yourself to higher level. It becomes a command.

Many people feel inadequate not feeling qualified, dwelling on past mistakes, no education, no money, but God is saying arise to a higher level. How do we do this? We do this by putting first things first, having priorities, practice being a major priority, doing it regardless of what we are feeling, when it is inconvenient, you will not move higher without practice and positioning yourself. Jesus is in you, He will help you rise, that is the command from God. The life of God will flow through you in a greater measure as you enjoy the favor and blessings of God.

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." KJV

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" AMP

God is speaking to Isaiah, going to a higher level, putting first things first, positioning himself, it is a command.

Jesus is telling us to arise, He would not tell us to arise, if we didn't have the ability through Him to arise, part of getting ourselves in the right position, is dealing with the worries and cares that come to pull us down. He has a new life for us.

We must learn to put first things first, learning to set time apart to spend with the Lord, not letting distractions cause us to interfere with that time, we must learn to put people aside for a time in order to have the Lord first in our lives, it must be a priority. In order for us to fulfill Gods plan and purpose for our lives, we will have to position ourselves, learning discipline, rising to a higher level, making choices, having a desire to know more of God, we will get that desire but it comes only from spending time in the word.

Time is short and there is much to be done, but in order to get things done, we must arise to a

higher level. Arise is a command for us to obey.

Ezekial 3:22-23 "And the hand of the Lord was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee. 23 Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face." KJV

Jonah 1:1-2 "Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." KJV

Jonah 3:1-2 "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." KJV

The Lord spoke to Joshua, Ezekiel and Jonah telling them all to arise for He had something for them to do. Joshua was to walk through the land, be strong and of good courage, to mediate the word day and night and be a doer. Ezekiel and Jonah were told to arise to go in order for God to speak to them, they arose and took that step of faith and were told what they needed to do. "Arise" in these verses were commands given to them.

Part of arising is moving out of the natural realm that sometimes holds us back by reasoning. God has faith and honors faith and as we by faith take a step based on the word of God, then God speaks. If we never arise we will never experience His glory, He is calling us to arise.

1 Peter 5:7-10 "***Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*** 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." KJV

Jesus does not want us carrying all our cares which will separate us from Him, but His desire is for us to come to Him and throw them on Him. The enemy cannot devour unless we allow it, resist and stand in faith, don't go along with him. We are going to resist all the cares and worries that he tries to place on us, strong in the faith. Grace is Gods power working in us enabling us to do what we can't do on our own. Nestle down in the peace and grace of God. Arise and shine there is a new life dwelling up there.

There was a man who had been called into the ministry, his wife was already in the ministry, but because of his heritage, no education, no money in order to go into the ministry and feeling inadequate in all areas of his life and having a measure of pride, he suffered a heart attack at work, while in the hospital recovering the Lord asked three things of him, to arise but his response was he couldn't, he refused again and the Lord told him he couldn't heal him, the man's responded that he just couldn't arise, but he died a young man and went on to heaven. He couldn't or wouldn't arise because of his feeling of inadequacy. There is always a measure of pride trying to do it on our own.

The Lord is saying to arise, putting first things first, making right choices, we are not inadequate in Jesus, in Jesus we are sufficient for all things, we are qualified for all things, but we will have to arise to new life.