

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians  
Lesson 5 “Thinking From Heaven Toward Earth”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament reveal recorded in *Acts*. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of *Revelation*.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. Last week we talked about how Paul prayed for this church to get a spirit of wisdom and revelation that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives on the inside of them.

1. We need things revealed by the spirit so we can see that which is hidden. Once you see it in the spirit, you can't unsee it. ex: Kenneth Hagin
2. We also talked about how we are like the ark of the covenant. We contain the power and favor of God which causes us to triumph in any situation.

II. Thinking From Heaven Toward Earth - When we receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation, we gain a capacity to get a fresh perspective on life. We will begin to live from heaven (a place of full supply) toward earth (a place of lack) instead of the other way around. Most people start from a place of lack and see themselves as beggars instead of presence of Jesus minded living from a place of full supply.

**A. Ephesians 2:1-7**

1. *Verses 1-5* We now have a new nature.
  - a. When He died we died (*Romans 6:3*, when He was raised, we were raised, when He was seated, we were seated.
  - b. Need to renew our mind to our new nature to walk in the fulness of our identity and purpose. Can't go by how we feel. We are believers not “feelers.”
  - c. God's mercy kicked in when we were dead and didn't even recognize we had a need. It kicked in when things looked hopeless.
  - d. These truths created the context to receive from God because we now realize we qualify apart from our works. We have a new identity.
2. *Verses 6-7* We are now seated in the presence of Jesus so we should think from the presence of Jesus. Not react to problems.

- a. Too many Christians live under the circumstances instead of seated with Jesus. We don't need to give our heavenly seat because it gives us the capacity to see from Jesus's perspective. Ex: loaves and fishes.
- b. He will show us the riches of His grace and kindness in Christ for ages to come. This process begins now and will continue in eternity. He has more to show us about His beauty than we've ever seen. He has solutions to the problems of life, we haven't dreamed up yet.

#### B. **John 3:3-13** - Illustration of Heavenly Thought

- 1. **Verse 13** Jesus says the son of man is in heaven right now. He says this while standing on the earth. Illustrates **Ephesians 2:6**.
- 2. **Verse 3** Must be born again to see the kingdom.
- 3. **Verses 4-9** Jesus begins to describe earthly, natural truth to Nicodemus.
- 4. **Verses 10-12** Jesus begins to differentiate between earthly truth and heavenly truth. All the natural things Jesus described were true, but what He wanted Nicodemus to realize is there is a next level of sight. ex: person with AIDS, divine healing is the next level of sight.

#### C. Application of Heavenly Thought

- 1. Jesus has an encounter with Samaritan woman and she goes and tells the people in the city about Jesus.
- 2. **John 4:35**
  - a. Four months - natural truth - sow seed, water and time, and harvest four months later.
  - b. Heavenly truth - the seed went out today and the harvest is ready now.
  - c. **John 4:39-40** Jesus saw by the spirit that a move of God was forming and revival was now (this happened in one day's time, while generally it takes years to see a great revival). Had He not seen by the spirit he would have left to eat lunch with his disciples and missed the revival opportunity.

III. Conclusion - This story is living from heaven toward earth. It's living on a next level and while it's remarkable and should be celebrated in the life of Jesus, Jesus is praying we see it as invitation to live this way right now in everyday life. See above the circumstances.

#### A. Pray for Online Audience

#### B. Break into Discussion Groups

#### IV. Discussion Questions

1. What are your biggest takeaways or aha moments from this teaching?
2. What can you take from this teaching and apply to your everyday life?
3. In this teaching we learned that we now have a new nature yet sometimes we don't feel like that is true. This is because we are believers and not "feelers." What are practical things we can do to keep ourselves focused on the truth so we can live by faith and not feelings?
4. Give an example of where you have seen from a heavenly perspective and saw supernatural solution to a natural problem which seemed impossible? How did God move in your situation to bring a miraculous breakthrough? If you can't think of one, give a biblical example.