

<sup>50</sup>AND HE LED THEM OUT AS FAR AS BETHANY, AND LIFTING UP HIS HANDS HE BLESSED THEM. <sup>51</sup>WHILE HE BLESSED THEM, HE PARTED FROM THEM AND WAS CARRIED UP INTO HEAVEN. <sup>52</sup>AND THEY WORSHIPPED HIM AND RETURNED TO JERUSALEM WITH GREAT JOY, <sup>53</sup>AND WERE CONTINUALLY IN THE TEMPLE BLESSING GOD.

—LUKE 24:50-53

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<sup>1</sup>IN THE FIRST BOOK, O THEOPHILUS, I HAVE DEALT WITH ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH, <sup>2</sup>UNTIL THE DAY WHEN HE WAS TAKEN UP, AFTER HE HAD GIVEN COMMANDS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE APOSTLES WHOM HE HAD CHOSEN. <sup>3</sup>HE PRESENTED HIMSELF ALIVE TO THEM AFTER HIS SUFFERING BY MANY PROOFS, APPEARING TO THEM DURING FORTY DAYS AND SPEAKING ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. <sup>4</sup>AND WHILE STAYING WITH THEM HE ORDERED THEM NOT TO DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, BUT TO WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER, WHICH, HE SAID,

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“YOU HEARD FROM ME; <sup>5</sup>FOR JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.” <sup>6</sup>SO WHEN THEY HAD COME TOGETHER, THEY ASKED HIM, “LORD, WILL YOU AT THIS TIME RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?” <sup>7</sup>HE SAID TO THEM, “IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW TIMES OR SEASONS THAT THE FATHER HAS FIXED BY HIS OWN AUTHORITY. <sup>8</sup>BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”

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<sup>9</sup>AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THESE THINGS, AS THEY WERE LOOKING ON, HE WAS LIFTED UP, AND A CLOUD TOOK HIM OUT OF THEIR SIGHT. <sup>10</sup>AND WHILE THEY WERE GAZING INTO HEAVEN AS HE WENT, BEHOLD, TWO MEN STOOD BY THEM IN WHITE ROBES, <sup>11</sup>AND SAID, “MEN OF GALILEE, WHY DO YOU STAND LOOKING INTO HEAVEN? THIS JESUS, WHO WAS TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, WILL COME IN THE SAME WAY AS YOU SAW HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.”

—ACTS 1:1-11

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## I. THE RECORD OF THE ASCENSION

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## LUKE 21:27-28

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10AND WHILE THEY WERE  
GAZING INTO HEAVEN  
AS HE WENT,  
BEHOLD, TWO MEN  
STOOD BY THEM IN WHITE  
ROBES, 11AND SAID,  
“MEN OF GALILEE, WHY DO  
YOU STAND LOOKING INTO  
HEAVEN? THIS JESUS, WHO  
WAS TAKEN UP FROM YOU  
INTO HEAVEN, WILL COME  
IN THE SAME WAY AS YOU  
SAW HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.”  
—ACTS 1:10-11

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## 2. THE REASONS FOR HIS ASCENSION

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“<sup>62</sup>THEN WHAT IF YOU WERE TO SEE THE SON OF MAN ASCENDING TO WHERE HE WAS BEFORE? <sup>63</sup>IT IS THE SPIRIT WHO GIVES LIFE; THE FLESH IS NO HELP AT ALL. THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE.

—JOHN 6:62-63

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*Through Christ's Ascension:*

- WE ARE GUARANTEED ACCESS AND ACCEPTANCE

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<sup>1</sup>NOW THE POINT IN WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THIS: WE HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIEST, ONE WHO IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF THE MAJESTY IN HEAVEN, <sup>2</sup>A MINISTER IN THE HOLY PLACES, IN THE TRUE TENT THAT THE LORD SET UP, NOT MAN. <sup>3</sup>FOR EVERY HIGH PRIEST IS APPOINTED TO OFFER GIFTS AND SACRIFICES; THUS IT IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PRIEST ALSO TO HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER. —HEBREWS 8:1-3

<sup>11</sup>BUT WHEN CHRIST APPEARED AS A HIGH PRIEST OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE COME, THEN THROUGH THE GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TENT (NOT MADE WITH HANDS, THAT IS, NOT OF THIS CREATION) <sup>12</sup>HE ENTERED ONCE FOR ALL INTO THE HOLY PLACES, NOT BY MEANS OF THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND CALVES BUT BY MEANS OF HIS OWN BLOOD, THUS SECURING AN ETERNAL REDEMPTION. <sup>13</sup>FOR IF THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND BULLS, AND THE SPRINKLING OF DEFILED PERSONS WITH THE ASHES OF A HEIFER, SANCTIFY FOR THE PURIFICATION OF THE FLESH,

<sup>14</sup>HOW MUCH MORE WILL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT BLEMISH TO GOD, PURIFY OUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD. <sup>15</sup>THEREFORE HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT, SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE CALLED MAY RECEIVE THE PROMISED ETERNAL INHERITANCE, SINCE A DEATH HAS OCCURRED THAT REDEEMS THEM FROM THE TRANSGRESSIONS COMMITTED UNDER THE FIRST COVENANT. —HEBREWS 9:11-15

<sup>12</sup>BUT WHEN CHRIST HAD OFFERED FOR ALL TIME A SINGLE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, <sup>13</sup>WAITING FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS ENEMIES SHOULD BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. <sup>14</sup>FOR BY A SINGLE OFFERING HE HAS PERFECTED FOR ALL TIME THOSE WHO ARE BEING SANCTIFIED. —HEBREWS 10:12-14

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*Through Christ's Ascension:*

- WE ARE PROMISED A HELPER

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<sup>7</sup>NEVERTHELESS, I TELL YOU THE TRUTH: IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE THAT I GO AWAY, FOR IF I DO NOT GO AWAY, THE HELPER WILL NOT COME TO YOU. BUT IF I GO, I WILL SEND HIM TO YOU. <sup>8</sup>AND WHEN HE COMES, HE WILL CONVICT THE WORLD CONCERNING SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT: <sup>9</sup>CONCERNING SIN, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IN ME; <sup>10</sup>CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER, AND YOU WILL SEE ME NO LONGER; <sup>11</sup>CONCERNING JUDGMENT, BECAUSE THE RULER OF THIS WORLD IS JUDGED. —JOHN 16:7-11

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<sup>5</sup>JESUS ANSWERED, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS ONE IS BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT, HE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD. <sup>6</sup>THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH, AND THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT. <sup>7</sup>DO NOT MARVEL THAT I SAID TO YOU, 'YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.' <sup>8</sup>THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT WISHES, AND YOU HEAR ITS SOUND, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT COMES FROM OR WHERE IT GOES. SO IT IS WITH EVERYONE WHO IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT."

—JOHN 3:5-8

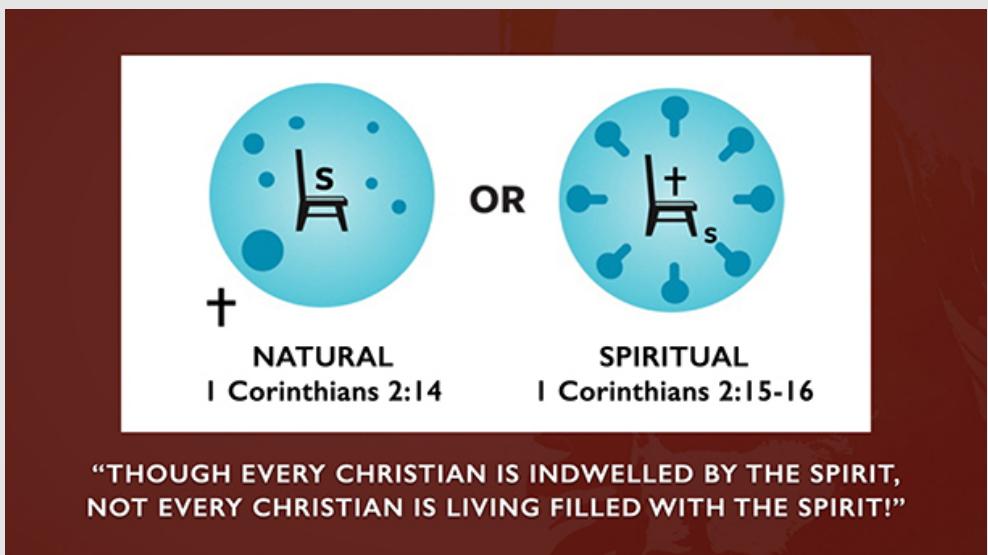
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<sup>7</sup>BUT GRACE WAS GIVEN TO EACH ONE OF US ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF CHRIST'S GIFT. <sup>8</sup>THEREFORE IT SAYS, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH HE LED A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." <sup>9</sup>(IN SAYING, "HE ASCENDED," WHAT DOES IT MEAN BUT THAT HE HAD ALSO DESCENDED INTO THE LOWER REGIONS, THE EARTH? <sup>10</sup>HE WHO DESCENDED IS THE ONE WHO ALSO ASCENDED FAR ABOVE ALL THE HEAVENS, THAT HE MIGHT FILL ALL THINGS.) <sup>11</sup>AND HE GAVE THE APOSTLES, THE PROPHETS, THE EVANGELISTS, THE SHEPHERDS AND TEACHERS, <sup>12</sup>TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST, <sup>13</sup>UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO MATURE MANHOOD, TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST. —EPHESIANS 4:7-13

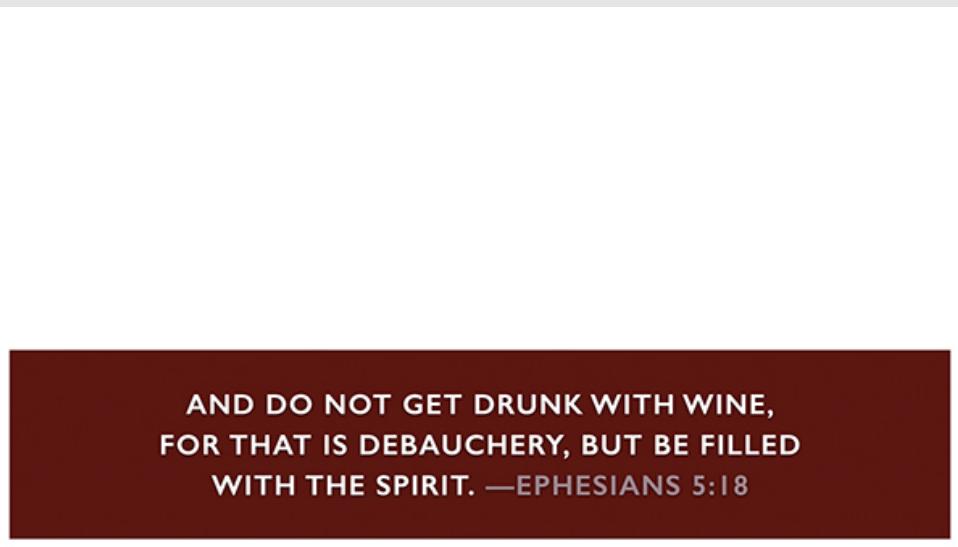
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1 THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. 2 FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE HAS SET YOU FREE IN CHRIST JESUS FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. 3 FOR GOD HAS DONE WHAT THE LAW, WEAKENED BY THE FLESH, COULD NOT DO. BY SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH AND FOR SIN, HE CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH, 4 IN ORDER THAT THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT ACCORDING TO THE FLESH BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT... 5 YOU, HOWEVER, ARE NOT IN THE FLESH BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF IN FACT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU. ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM. —ROMANS 8:1-4, 9

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*Through Christ's Ascension:*

- WE ARE EMPOWERED TO LIVE AND SHARE (ACTS 1:8)

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“WITNESSING IS SHARING CHRIST IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND LEAVING THE RESULTS TO GOD.”

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<sup>16</sup>BUT I SAY, WALK BY THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH...  
<sup>22</sup>BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,  
<sup>23</sup>GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL; AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW. <sup>24</sup>AND THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES. <sup>25</sup>IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT.  
—GALATIANS 5:16, 22-25

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3. THE RESULTS OF THE ASCENSION

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<sup>1</sup>LET NOT YOUR HEARTS  
BE TROUBLED. BELIEVE  
IN GOD; BELIEVE ALSO  
IN ME. <sup>2</sup>IN MY FATHER'S  
HOUSE ARE MANY ROOMS.  
IF IT WERE NOT SO, WOULD  
I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT  
I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE  
FOR YOU? <sup>3</sup>AND IF I GO AND  
PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU,  
I WILL COME AGAIN AND  
WILL TAKE YOU TO MYSELF,  
THAT WHERE I AM  
YOU MAY BE ALSO.

—JOHN 14:1-3

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