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Sermon Notes

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The Glorious Ascension of Christ

Acts 1:1-12

I. The Father Raises His Son and Glorifies Him

A. The Connection Between Easter and Christ's Ascension

1. This is Resurrection Sunday!

- a. All over the world, Christians are assembling to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!
- b. Christ's resurrection is the greatest moment in human history, for it addresses the greatest enemies the human race faces
 - i) Death itself...the unbeatable foe, the enemy no one can defeat; no matter how much medical science progresses, the clearer it becomes how unbeatable this foe is; what the scripture calls "The Final Enemy"

Death... the merciless one, showing pity to none—all are vulnerable at all times, the young and the old, male and female, healthy and ill, strong and weak, rich and poor... all fall when Death swings his sharp sickle

- ii) The terrors of God's holy judgment... the record of our sins, our lawless acts, the countless ways we have rebelled against the holy creator of the universe, the righteous lawgiver...our sins stood opposed to us, perfectly recorded in God's annals, ready for the dreadful tribunal, Judgment Day, in which we know we could not answer him once in a thousand times

- iii) Satan, the accuser, the merciless foe, the adversary, ready to stand before God the judge and accuse of all these acts of rebellion
 - c. Christ's bloody death on the cross and his mighty resurrection from the dead answers all these terrors
2. So it is right for all God's hope-filled people all over the world to assemble in churches and sing songs of triumph

Revelation 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Charles Wesley's "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" sounds the most triumphant tones:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
 Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
 Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
 Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
 Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
 Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Ok... so it is RIGHT that we should celebrate Christ's awesome resurrection victory! So why am I preaching on Christ's ascension into heaven? Isn't that a theological detail that people generally skip?

Yes... BUT THEY SHOULDN'T! For Christ's glorious ascension to heaven is Almighty God's final vindication of his incarnate Son on earth, in his earthly mission

B. The Father's Vindication of His Son

1. Absolutely needed!
2. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was a picture of humiliation, of total rejection by God and man alike

3. The cross was an agonizing death... the worst death that a vicious tyrant empire like the Romans could devise and utilize
4. The victim was held up to utter scorn and humiliation, then died slowly and with exquisite pain, surrounded by onlooking haters
5. But infinitely worse than the human shame and physical pain was the spiritual dimension
6. Anyone who hung on a cross was under the curse of God... and since Jesus was bearing our sins for us, he was completely cursed, infinitely cursed, bearing the white-hot wrath of God in our place
7. This was our propitiation, the way by which God's righteous wrath for our numberless sins would be atoned for by blood
8. So Jesus died crying out

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!”

9. His enemies thought he was dying for his own sins

Isaiah 53:4 we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

When Jesus died such a death, it was easy to misinterpret.

10. Isaiah told the truth centuries before:

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

11. Yet that message could only be established if God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus and proved it by vindicating his Son... and the only possible vindication was his RESURRECTION from the dead
12. But even that vindication was not enough! God intended to exalt Jesus to the highest place, completing his return journey

From heaven to earth... through the womb of a woman; from the manger to a life of humble servanthood loving God perfectly and loving others perfectly; from a life of humble servanthood to the cross... ignominious and scandalous and ugly and painful and shameful! Down... down... down.

Then... God the Father raised him up... up... up in his resurrection and ascension and seated him on his throne in heaven to take again his glory by his side.

This is the very thing that Jesus had demanded of his Father:

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

The fact that it was the FATHER who worked the Ascension is clear from the PASSIVE VOICE of the verb:

^{KJV} Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he WAS parted from them, and [WAS] carried up into heaven.

BOTH verbs are PASSIVE... something that WAS DONE to Jesus!

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us

1 Timothy 3:16 [Christ] appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Jesus RECEIVED the Ascension; it was done TO him; and who could do that but the Father? This was God's vindication of his Son!

C. Luke's Link

1. The Gospel of Luke ended with Christ's ascension... his second volume, the Book of Acts began with Christ's ascension
2. The Gospel of Luke

Luke 24:50-53 *When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

3. Acts 1:1-11 [Today's reading, as we have already heard]

Without the Ascension, the mission of Jesus would have been incomplete! For Jesus descended from heaven to bring us to God; he must himself ascend back to heaven to complete the mission... to bring us to God

John 17:24 *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

Or as Charles Wesley put it in the next stanza of his Easter hymn:

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

II. The Facts of Christ's Ascension to Heaven

A. Timing

1. Jesus' Ascension happened forty days after his resurrection
2. During that period, Jesus poured scripture into his tiny church in the upper room in Jerusalem

Luke 24:44-45 *"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*

3. After that was finished, it was time for him to return to heaven

B. Where Was the Ascension?

Luke tells us it was near Bethany on the Mount of Olives; a Sabbath's day walk from Jerusalem; 2000 cubits, 0.6 of a mile.

C. What Happened?

1. Jesus gave them one more version of the great commission

Acts 1:8 you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2. Then he extended his hands and blessed them

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

3. He seemed to have floated up higher and higher... because the Apostles stood their looking up as it was happening, and they kept looking until a cloud hid him from their sight

D. The Angelic Messengers

Acts 1:10-11 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

E. A Note on the Second Coming

1. It is amazing that Jesus' last physical touch with planet earth was his feet on the Mount of Olives... the very place where he had thoroughly instructed his Apostles on the events surrounding his return to Earth... his Second Coming
2. And it is just as amazing that, not only will Jesus return in the same way that he left... his next physical touch on planet earth will be his feet on the same Mount of Olives, according to the prophet Zechariah:

Zechariah 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem

And at his Second Coming, his people will do the same thing he did... leave earth and go up into the clouds

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

But unlike Jesus, we will need the help of angels, whom the Lord will send out to gather us to meet him in the clouds

F. The Supposed Embarrassment of the Ascension

Wikipedia article about the Ascension of Jesus:

“In modern times, a literal reading of the ascension-stories has become problematic, due to the differences between the pre-scientific cosmology of the times of Jesus, and the scientific worldview that leaves no place for a Heaven above earth.

Theologian James Dunn describes the Ascension as at best a puzzle and at worst an embarrassment for an age that no longer conceives of a physical Heaven located above the Earth. And according to McGill University's Douglas Farrow, in modern times the ascension is seen as ‘something of an embarrassment in the age of the telescope and the space probe,’

Famously, when Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, became the first man in space in 1961, Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier and an atheist, mocked the idea of the Ascension and of a heaven above the Earth. He said:

“Why are you clinging to God! Here Gagarin flew into space, and didn’t encounter God.”

However, this view forgets the fact that Bible asserts different levels of heaven... Paul speaks about being caught up to “third heaven” ... perhaps referring to 1) sky; 2) space; 3) the spiritual realm above that called “heaven”

We are aware of different levels of existence... the fact that Paul speaks FIVE TIMES of the “heavenly realms” in Ephesians, including a dimension that the demons occupy

G. The Stages of the Ascension

1. Like a rocket ride with different stages, so we can understand the Ascension of Jesus
2. **First stage:** from earth through the sky until a cloud hid Jesus from their physical eyesight; this is just like a rocket or a weather balloon ascending physically, soaring to a higher and higher altitude

For the next three stages of Jesus’ ascension, we need a different kind of sight: FAITH

Hebrews 2:9 *“We see Jesus now crowned with glory and honor” (at the right hand of God)*

How? BY FAITH! Faith is able based on the word of God to see into the invisible spiritual realms

3. **Second stage:** passing through the spiritual heavens

Hebrews 4:14 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

4. **Third stage:** entering the heavenly temple, the heavenly holy of holies, presenting his blood as the atoning sacrifice for his people

Hebrews 9:11-12 *When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

The scriptures reveal that both the tabernacle of Moses and the temple of Solomon were built according to a pattern shown them, a pattern that was based on a heavenly temple. That is the sanctuary where Jesus as our High Priest does his ministry

5. **Fourth stage:** above the heavens, seated at the right hand of God

Ephesians 4:8-10 **When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."** ⁹ *(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)*

Hebrews 7:26 **Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.**

1 Kings 8:27 **"But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you.**

The heavenly realms are a spiritual location where angels dwell... Jesus passed through all that and went ABOVE it. He crossed the infinite gap that no creature can cross to sit at the right hand of Almighty God:

Hebrews 1:3 **After [the Son] had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

Hebrews 8:1 **... We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven**

Hebrews 10:12 **when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.**

This is the exalted invitation God gives him:

Psalm 110:1 **The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."**

III. The Spiritual Significance of Christ's Ascension to Heaven

A. The Point: The Glorious Exaltation of Jesus

1. The elevation establishes his greatness... Jesus is HIGH ABOVE all creatures, equal to Almighty God himself
2. God wants this exaltation to be obvious to the entire universe...

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

3. Jesus wants all his people to see that glory and delight in it forever

B. The MANNER of the Ascension

1. Thus we should picture this four-stage ascension to be accompanied by much noise and worship and exaltation by the angels in heaven

Psalm 47:5-8 God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. ⁸ God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

2. Psalm 68 captures it, which is why Paul quotes it concerning the Ascension

Psalm 68:17-18 The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary. ¹⁸ When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious-- that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

3. Imagine the victory train of a conquering general, riding through the exultant streets of the capital city of the Empire; the crowds beside themselves with joy, the general throwing the plunder to the people... bestowing on the adoring populace the wealth he has won by his victory

Picture Jesus' defeated foes in chains behind the conquering hero

Colossians 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them

That is Satan and the demons in their attempts to send us to hell

C. The Spiritual Fulfillment of the High Priest's Climb

1. The temple was situated on a mountain... Mt. Zion, Jerusalem, 2,575 feet above sea level
2. When the Jewish men assembled for the three annual festivals, they would have to “go up” to Jerusalem... climbing higher and higher
3. As they would go up to have their sins atoned for on the Day of Atonement, they would sing “Songs of Ascent” so-called, Psalms 120-134 are all called that... Songs of Ascent... songs to sing while the pilgrims are climbing higher
4. Then the temple itself was built up high; there was no access to it except by climbing many stairs

The glorious temple of Herod that was in Jesus’ day, one of the most spectacular structures of the ancient world was designed to use elevation, height, to make a spiritual point; the court of the Gentiles was the lowest part; fifteen steps separated it from the court of women where all Jewish people, men and women could go; another fifteen steps led to the next level, where Jewish men could go; another three steps led to the Holy Place where only priests could go, and where normal sacrifices were made; and then, highest of all was the most holy place, the “holy of holies” ... another fifteen steps up to that loftiest of places, where only the High Priest could go, once a year, the Day of Atonement, where he would offer blood for the sins of the people

So, from the lowest place, the court of the Gentiles, to the highest place in the temple complex, the Holy of Holies, was a journey of almost fifty feet! That’s as tall as our North Tower... four stories. The ascent made by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement, therefore, was a picture of Christ’s ascent into the heavenly temple with blood once for all for our sins

Hebrews 9:11-12 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and

calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

IV. The Offices Christ Occupies in Heaven: Prophet, Priest, and King

A. Three Offices in the Old Testament: Prophet, Priest, King

B. Each Have a Significant Fulfillment in Christ's Ascension... I will rearrange the usual order; Priest, Prophet, King

C. Priest

1. As we have seen, Jesus moved through the spiritual realms into a heavenly temple where he does his work as our high priest

2. The work of a priest mostly focuses on dealing with our SINS

Hebrews 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

a. Because of his resurrection, Jesus can never die again; therefore he is a permanent High Priest for his people

Hebrews 7:24 because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

What is the priestly work Jesus did after his ascension? Three!

3. Made a perfect, final **offering** for our sins

Hebrews 7:27 He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Hebrews 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

4. **Made a living way** into the presence of God

In the Old Covenant, there was a curtain separating the people from the presence of God... the Holy of Holies, where God was represented as dwelling

The people could not go in there on pain of death

But when Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

The author of Hebrews says Jesus has opened for us ACCESS into the very presence of God himself:

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

5. Makes **intercession** for our final salvation

Hebrews 7:24-25 because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

“Save completely” = save to the final perfection, to the end, to the ultimate purpose of God

So Jesus is continually pleading for his people that they would finally be saved; glorified in heaven, perfected

This ongoing intercessory work of Christ is also described in Romans

Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

And what does Christ pray for? Like this:

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

So this is the ongoing priestly ministry Jesus ascended into heaven to perfect

To **offer** his blood for our sins once for all; to **open access** for us to draw near to God and to his throne; and to **pray** for us continually until we are completely done with our salvation

D. Prophet

1. A prophet is called on to proclaim the Word of God to the people... to say "Thus says the Lord"
2. Jesus is the perfection of all prophecy

Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

3. Jesus is "The Word of God", God's final word to the human race
4. However, he had more words to say to us than he did during his time on earth
5. The ongoing prophetic work must be done by the outpoured Holy Spirit on the church... by the Spirit, called "The Counselor", Jesus will continue his ministry as Prophet to the people of God

John 16:12-14 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

6. Jesus directly tied the outpouring of the Spirit tied to his Ascension to the Father:

John 16:7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

7. After his resurrection, Jesus told the Apostles to wait for the Spirit

Acts 1:4-5 Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John

baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

8. Jesus ascended to heaven to receive the gift of the Spirit, and when he received it, he poured it out on the people on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:32-33 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

9. By the Spirit, the church is enabled to preach the gospel to the world and to teach the details of the gospel to its converts

Ephesians 4:7-13 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

It was by the outpoured Spirit that the church advanced through evangelism and missions...

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit

And it was by the Spirit that the Apostles wrote the New Testament

And it was by the Spirit that the spiritual gifts came to all the members of the church to build it up to maturity in the Lord

10. So, the Spirit is the fulfillment of Christ's ministry as Prophet to his people

E. King

1. This is the ultimate purpose of Christ's ascension
2. He is seated at the right hand of the throne of God to receive kingly power

Psalm 110:1-2 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

3. Psalm 2: Almighty God decrees that his only begotten Son will be king

The Psalmist asks "Why do the nations rage and plot in vain against the Christ, the Anointed One? God laughs at their feeble plots and then rebukes them in his rage:

Psalm 2:5-9 ...saying, ⁶ "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

4. So also Ephesians 1 pictures the absolute reign of Christ after his Ascension

Ephesians 1:20-23 [God] raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

God seated Christ FAR ABOVE ALL other authorities... this is the final exaltation of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, as ruler over all things

5. Christ's ascension establishes him in the position of ultimate power over everything in heaven and on earth

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

6. His sovereign power is for four purposes

Kings **protect, provide for, rule over,** and **build** their nations

a. To **protect** his people from their enemies... Satanic and human

Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Part of this is his control of Satan's attacks and temptations... the "hedge of protection", not letting us be tempted beyond what we can bear

It is specifically as mighty King that the Second Coming occurs; because Satan and the Antichrist assemble to attack his people and he comes back with a sword to destroy their enemies

b. To **provide for** his people everything they need for life and godliness... to FEED them

c. To **rule over** events on earth for the benefit of his people

d. To lead his church in their mission and work so the church will be **built up**

V. Our Faith-Filled Response to Christ's Ascension to Heaven

A. Join in the Worldwide Celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the Dead

1. Sins have been atoned for

2. Death has been defeated

3. Repent and believe in Jesus Christ, you will join him in heaven

B. Stand in Awe of the Ascension

1. Picture yourself standing there watching as he rises, defying gravity, ruling over nature effortlessly

2. Realize this establishes Jesus forever as GOD in the flesh... God alone could ascend as Jesus does through all four stages to rule far above all the universe, visible and invisible
3. Worship him for his indescribable power and glory!
4. Ascribe to him the name that is above every name... LORD!

C. Delight in His Offices as Perfected in Heaven

1. Priest

- a. Understand the three functions
- b. Jesus presented once for all time his blood on your behalf
- c. Jesus opened a way for you into the presence of God... he is the Mediator, the Bridge-Builder between God and humanity
- d. Jesus ever-lives to intercede for you; from the right hand of God his is praying that your faith won't fail and that you will be saved to the uttermost

2. Prophet

- a. Drink in the ministry of the Word by the Spirit
- b. Read the writings the Spirit inspired after Christ's ascension... the Four Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, Revelation... read every word as though Jesus were speaking them all to you
- c. See the prophetic work of the Spirit in the present roles in the church... pastors, teachers, all the spiritual gifts ministering to the Body of Christ

3. King

- a. Rest in his sovereign power...no enemy can touch you!
- b. Submit to his kingly authority... obey his word
- c. Feed at his kingly table... the Word of God