

such in the New Testament, the parallels seem too numerous to have not been intentioned by the Spirit.

**For Example:** Favored by father and in a unique way, his firstborn son (Rachel being his rightful wife); hated and rejected by brethren; put into a pit; sold as at the price of the slave; falsely accused; risen to glory to become the bread of life, etc. (A. W. Pink – over doing it some – found 100 parallels!).

### Genesis 45:25-28!

“regard not your stuff, for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours....and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way. To all of them he gave each man **changes of raiment**; but to Benjamin he gave **three hundred pieces of silver**, and five changes of raiment. And to his father he sent after this manner; ten asses laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she asses laden with **corn and bread and meat...**” Genesis 45:20-23

### Have you seen the wagons?

Have you seen the evidence and the fruitfulness of the risen and exalted Son positioned at the right hand of the Father on high?

### Summarization

Where Christ was as the Son of God before He also became man – at the right hand of the Father on high – he is also now as the Son of man!

In other words, where He was as God before the incarnation, He is now as the God-Man!

One of us, a member of the human race is at the right hand of God on our behalf forever!

If you are a true believer tonight you are connected!

**Illustration!** Henry Ford’s panel with buttons – did not have all the answers but was connected with those that did!

Christ did not just come down here to our level to help us as a man He took us to His level, as a man and as God!

Where we will be someday literally, we are now legally!

# BREAKTHROUGH CHRISTIANITY

## “Achieving New Levels of Grace”

“those things which are above” Col. 3:1-3

### Introduction

There have been numerous scientific, technological and medical breakthroughs through the years – from gun powder to nitro glycerin to nuclear bombs. From x-rays to cat scans to MRIs. From the telegraph to the telephone to WiFi (wireless communication).

But the greatest and most significant breakthroughs are ones that are spiritual, theological and eternal!

**THEME:** Colossians 3:1-3. What are these “things above?”

They are not primarily, in this context, our future experiences in Heaven, and such is important and should play a strong role in how we think down here. And not to be minimized in positive effect such can have on us.

I mean, it is going to be great to not only see and be with so many of our loved ones for ever and to never say goodbye to them again, and to see the great saints of yesteryear both Biblical and from history in general – above all, to see the Lord!

What Paul has in view here is what those things are above that are to greatly affect our lives now, here below, for the better!

“things above” – Cookie jar on high!?! Christmas presents put away high on the closet shelf!?! Sen-Sens in top drawer of my parents chest of drawers!?! Almost out of reach...

### I. FOCUS.

**Notice first what our focus should be.** Above – but not just above, but Christ, Who is above. Who sits on the right hand of the Father!

Then, notice we are to seek “those things” associated with Him.

Not a suggestion but a command from the Apostle.

## II. FACTOR (vertical – from “up down”).

Our perspective should be from “up down.” Yes, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us once we are saved. But when we think of Christ and who we are in Him, we should not bring Him down here but rather perceive ourselves up there in Him!

**All that we now have in Christ is originating from the right hand of God on high in the person of Christ!**

Far above all the stresses and strains of this life, all Satanic powers and interferences here below and between us and Him.

Ephesians 1:15-23 – “seated together” – let that sink in.

## III. FORTUNE (spiritual wealth in Christ)!

**For a Church it is:**

**Authority** to do the work (Matt. 28:18-20).

**Accountability in the work** (Eph. 1:22). This is why we are independent and not denominational in structure. As a church, we answer only to Christ! Many take this too lightly!

**Approval for the work** (Eph. 4:30; I Thes. 5:19). We want Heaven’s smile on the church not the world’s! That is when the Spirit will show up in our midst (I Cor. 14:25; Eph. 2:19-22).

*The “Up-Down Factor!”*

**For Christians, in General:**

**Acceptance** in Christ.

Full acceptance – i.e. unconditional because Christ met all of the conditions! (Eph. 1:6).

**Access** through Christ to the Father (Rom. 5:1-2).

**Assurance** with Christ.

Heaven, God on His throne is not bothered by the things we are! From the heavenly perspective, it looks different. And as God, it does not intimidate Him. The more we enter into assurance with who we are above in Christ, the less we will be shook by what is here below!

At times, man is going to reject me but He never will!

*The “Up-Down Factor!”*

## More Specifically Speaking:

**Attitudes** (Gal. 5:23-25 – notice v. 24).

**Abilities** – Ephesians 4:8-12 – “When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men**....He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ** (“body” – an analogy for each and every church).”

*Application of body metaphor is in I Corinthians 12:12-31.*

**NOTE:** Romans 12:4-10ff

**Attributes, Aspects and Attainments of Christ in His Person, Life and Work as shown forth in the Gospel!**

Attributes are the same as God’s in that He is God! Aspects are His offices of Prophet, Priest and King and His numerous titles. Attainments are the very points of the gospel!

*The “Up-Down Factor!”*

**Illustration!** Story of Jacob becoming convinced that Joseph was alive!

**Genesis 42:1** - “when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt” – **that’s one thing...but to see who the source of it was, was quite another!**

Joseph is a picture of Christ. Although, it apparently never cites him as