

A Higher View

Trading my view of reality
for God's higher one

TAMMY LODGE

Regulated Woman

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Seeing from where I'm seated

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Welcome

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:8–9

We all see life from a certain point of view. We look at our circumstances, our past, our bank balance, our relationships and our health, and we draw conclusions. "This is how things are." "This is how it'll always be." "This is just reality."

But our view is limited. We see from the ground, through the lens of our experiences, fears and feelings. God sees from above. He sees the whole picture: past, present and future, seen and unseen.

This booklet is an invitation to trade your current view of reality for a higher one, God's view. Not to deny what's real, but to see it from where He sees it.

This booklet will help you:

- recognise the limits of your current view
- understand how God's ways and thoughts are higher
- learn to look at life from heaven's perspective
- see your circumstances, yourself and others as God does
- renew your mind with a higher view.

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My View From the Ground

What I see right now

Tick anything that describes how you've been seeing things lately.

- ☐ My problems seem bigger than God.
- ☐ I can only see what's going wrong.
- ☐ I assume the worst will happen.
- ☐ I see myself through my failures.
- ☐ I judge my future by my past.
- ☐ I see people as enemies, not as people God loves.
- ☐ I feel stuck, as if nothing will ever change.
- ☐ I measure everything by what I can see.

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.
1 Corinthians 13:12

Our view is always partial. That's not a fault. It's simply what it means to be human. But it means we need God's higher view.

How I've been seeing my life lately:

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His Ways Are Higher

Heaven and earth

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:9

How high are the heavens above the earth? Too high to measure. That's the gap between our thinking and God's.

That might sound discouraging, but it's actually good news. It means:

- God sees solutions we can't see.
- God has purposes in situations that look pointless.
- God's plans are bigger and better than ours.
- God isn't limited by what limits us.

God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to him!
Isaiah 40:22

He sits above it all. Nothing is out of His sight or beyond His reach.

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Grasshoppers or Giants?

Two views of the same land

When Israel sent twelve spies into the Promised Land, they all saw the same things: fruitful land, strong cities and giants. But they came back with two completely different views.

Ten said:

> *We even saw giants there… Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!*
> *Numbers 13:33*

Joshua and Caleb said:

> *Don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!*
> *Numbers 14:9*

Same land. Same giants. Different view. The ten saw the giants compared with themselves. Joshua and Caleb saw the giants compared with God.

Where have I been seeing myself as a grasshopper?

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Open My Eyes

Seeing what's really there

When the king of Aram sent an army to capture the prophet Elisha, his servant woke up to find the city surrounded. He was terrified.

> *"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.*
> 2 Kings 6:16–17

The servant saw the enemy army. Elisha saw heaven's army. Both were real, but only one was seeing the whole picture.

PRAY THIS

Lord, open my eyes. Let me see what You see. Let me see Your hand at work in my situation.

What I'd love God to open my eyes to:

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Seen and Unseen

Fixing my gaze

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.
2 Corinthians 4:18

What you can see isn't the whole of reality. There's also what you can't see: God's presence, His promises, His angels, His purposes and eternity.

A higher view doesn't ignore what we can see. It simply adds the unseen to the picture, and gives it more weight.

WHAT I CAN SEE	WHAT I CAN'T SEE, BUT IS TRUE
A closed door	God going ahead of me
An empty bank account	God my Provider
A diagnosis	God my Healer and my peace
Being alone	God who is always with me
My failure	Grace that covers it
This season	Eternity

What I can see, and what's also true that I can't see:

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Set Your Sights Higher

Thinking about heaven

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
Colossians 3:1–2

For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 2:6

You're seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. That's your vantage point. You don't have to look at life only from the ground. You can look at it from where Christ is seated, above it all.

I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
Psalm 121:1–2

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In His Presence, I Understand

When perspective changes

In Psalm 73, Asaph was troubled. He looked around and saw wicked people prospering, while he was struggling. It didn't make sense.

> *So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood.*
> *Psalm 73:16–17*

Nothing changed in his circumstances. What changed was his view. When he went into God's presence, he began to see things from God's perspective.

Often, the best way to get a higher view is simply to spend time with God.

> *Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.*
> *Jeremiah 33:3*

A situation I need to bring into God's presence:

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A Higher View of My Circumstances

God is working

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
Romans 8:28

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.
Genesis 50:20

Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. From the ground, it looked like a disaster. From heaven, it was the road to saving many lives.

From your view, a situation may look like loss, delay or a dead end. From God's view, it may be preparation, protection or a turning point.

A *circumstance I'm asking God to help me see differently:*

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A Higher View of Myself

How God sees me

We often see ourselves through our mistakes, our appearance, our past or other people's opinions. God sees us differently.

HOW I SEE MYSELF	HOW GOD SEES ME
A failure	Forgiven and new (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Not enough	Complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)
Ordinary	His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)
Forgotten	Engraved on His hands (Isaiah 49:16)
Unlovable	Loved with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)
Weak	Strong in Him (2 Corinthians 12:9)

People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7

The higher view of myself I'm choosing to believe:

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A Higher View of Others

Seeing people as God does

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!
2 Corinthians 5:16

It's easy to see people by their worst moments: the one who hurt us, annoys us or disagrees with us. But God sees every person as someone He made and loves, someone Christ died for.

A higher view of others doesn't mean ignoring wrongdoing or putting up with abuse. It means seeing them with God's compassion, and praying for them.

Someone I need to see from God's higher view:

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A Higher View of My Future

God holds it

"*For I know the plans I have for you,*" *says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*
Jeremiah 29:11

From the ground, the future can look uncertain or frightening. But God already stands in your future. He knows the end from the beginning.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
Proverbs 3:5–6

You don't have to see the whole road. You just have to trust the One who does.

What I'm trusting God with for my future:

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Renewing My Mind

Changing how I think

A higher view doesn't come all at once. It grows as our minds are renewed.

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
Romans 12:2

Ways to renew your mind:

- ☐ Read God's Word daily, and ask, "What does this show me about how God sees things?"
- ☐ Notice when I'm thinking from a "ground" view, and pause.
- ☐ Ask, "What might God see here that I don't?"
- ☐ Speak His promises over my circumstances.
- ☐ Spend time in worship, which lifts my eyes.
- ☐ Talk to people with strong faith, who help me see further.

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
Hebrews 11:1

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Soaring Higher

An eagle's view

But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31

An eagle doesn't flap hard to stay up. It rides the currents of warm air, rising higher and higher, until it can see for miles.

When we trust the Lord, He lifts us above our circumstances, so we can see more clearly. From up there, mountains look smaller, roads look clearer and storms look temporary.

Where I'd love to soar above, rather than struggle through:

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Looking Up Each Day

Simple habits for a higher view

Choose a few to practise this week.

- ☐ Before I check the news or my phone, I look up and thank God.
- ☐ When something goes wrong, I ask, “Lord, what do You see here?”
- ☐ I write down one worry each evening, and next to it one promise of God.
- ☐ I go outside and look at the sky, remembering how much higher His ways are.
- ☐ I read a psalm when I feel low, and let it lift my eyes.
- ☐ I tell someone what God has done, which reminds me of His bigger picture.
- ☐ I pray for someone who’s hurt me, asking to see them as God does.

I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven.
Psalm 123:1

The habit I’ll start with:

What changed when I looked up:

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A Prayer for a Higher View

Lift my eyes

PRAY THIS OUT LOUD

Lord, Your ways are higher than my ways, and Your thoughts are higher than my thoughts.

I confess that I've been looking at life from the ground. I've seen my problems as bigger than You. I've judged my future by my past. I've seen myself and others through limited eyes.

Today I trade my view of reality for Yours. Open my eyes, as You opened the eyes of Elisha's servant. Show me what You see. Lift me up, so I can see my life from where I'm seated with Christ.

Help me see my circumstances, myself, other people and my future from Your perspective. Renew my mind. Let me fix my gaze on what is unseen and eternal.

I trust Your higher ways.

Amen.

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My Declarations

Speak these out loud

- God's ways are higher than my ways.
- His thoughts are higher than my thoughts.
- I'm seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.
- I see more than what's in front of me.
- There are more with me than against me.
- I'm not a grasshopper. The Lord is with me.
- God is working all things together for good.
- I see myself as God sees me.
- I fix my gaze on what is unseen and eternal.
- I soar on wings like eagles.
- My mind is being renewed, and my view is rising higher.

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
Colossians 3:2

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My Journal

Seeing from above

A situation that looks different from God's view:

How I'm learning to see myself differently:

Where God has opened my eyes:

What I'm trusting His higher ways with:

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A Blessing

For the woman lifting her eyes

May the Lord open your eyes to see what He sees.

May you trade every limited view for His higher one.

May you see the chariots of fire around you, and know that more are with you than against you.

May you fix your gaze on what is unseen and eternal.

May you soar on wings like eagles, above every storm.

And may you trust His higher ways, knowing His thoughts towards you are good.

In the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways.
Isaiah 55:9

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My Notes and Prayers

Regulated Woman

My ways are higher than your ways
and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:9

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