

HIGHER GROUND #375

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 61:1–4 Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

INTRODUCTION

- A. Most writer of religious songs get their inspiration from Scripture.
- B. Some even make perfect outlines for sermons.
- C. One such song is "Higher Ground" #375 in our song book.
- D. I want to look at that song and see scriptures which go along with each verse.

VS 1: I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day; Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Philippians 3:7-14 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

**VS 2: My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Tho some may dwell where these abound, My prayer, my aim is higher ground.**

- A. **Job 14:1-2** "Man who is born of woman is **of few days and full of trouble.** ² He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.
- B. **Ecclesiastes 2:17** Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for **all is vanity and grasping for the wind.**
- C. **Job 5:7** Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.
- D. **2 Corinthians 5:1–8** For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² **For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,** ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

**VS 3: I want to live above the world, Tho Satan's darts at me are hurled,
For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of saints on higher ground.**

- A. **Ephesians 6:10-18** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to **quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.** ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

- B. **Revelation 15:3–4** They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

VS 4: I want to scale the utmost height, And catch a gleam of glory bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me on to higher ground.

- A. **1 Corinthians 2:9** But as it is written: "**Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**"
- B. **Revelation 21:1-4** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And **God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain,** for the former things have passed away."

CHORUS: Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on heaven's table land, A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Hebrews 11:1-16 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him" for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him ⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.** ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For **those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.** ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But **now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city for them.**

Conclusion – What about you?

- A. Are you pressing on the upward way?
B. Are you gaining new heights every day?
C. Are you longing for that home in heaven?