

HIGHER GROUND #234.

8/20/2023 PM

DISCUSSION:

A. Read the text: Psalm 61.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Written by John Oatman (1856-1922), a prolific song writer who is said to have written lyrics to more than 5000 gospel songs.
2. This song encourages us to keep moving forward toward the “higher ground.”

I. VS. 1 – I’M PRESSING ON (MOVING FORWARD).

A. Pressing on - The idea is found throughout scripture.

1. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1.**
2. **1 Cor. 9:24-27** - The runner runs to win.

B. This song emphasizes that we are striving to move closer to heaven.

1. **Matt. 7:13-14:** The “upward way” is the way that leads to heaven.
2. **Col. 3:1-2:** “... set your mind on things above”

C. *New heights I’m gaining every day... continually moving in the right direction.*

1. **Phil. 3:14:** “high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2. **Heb. 6:1; 12:1-2:** looking to Jesus at the finish line.

D. Still praying as I onward bound.

1. Prayers demonstrate our trust and reliance upon Him.
2. **Phil. 4:6-7.**

E. *Lord lead me on to higher ground.*

1. This was a frequent request of the psalmist.
2. **Psalm 5:8; 23:2-3, 5.**

II. VS. 2 – MY HEART HAS NO DESIRE...

A. *To stay* – where is your treasure (Matt. 6:21**)?**

1. **1 Peter 2:11.**
2. **Phil. 3:20.**

B. *Where doubts arise and fears display* (confidence beyond this life).

1. **Heb. 6:19; 10:23.**

C. *Though some may dwell where these abound* (Ephesians 2:12**).**

D. *My prayer, my aim is higher ground* (James 1:6**).**

III. VS. 3 – I WANT TO LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD (RESISTING THE DEVIL).

A. **Col. 3:2, “Set you mind on things above, NOT on things of the earth.”**

B. *Tho’ Satan’s darts at me are hurled* (he is trying to derail us).

1. **2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3.**
2. **Eph. 6:11-12, 16.**

C. *For faith has caught the joyful sound.*

1. **1 John 5:4; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:12-13.**

D. *The song of saints on higher ground* is a new song (Rev. 14:3**).**

IV. VS. 4 - I WANT TO SCALE THE UTMOST HEIGHT – OUR HOPE OF DWELLING ON HEAVEN

A. *And catch a gleam of glory bright* – that is where the greatest of light is.

1. **2 Cor. 4:1-6**: discusses the light of the glory of Christ (**John 9:5**).
 2. **Rev. 22:5** in describing the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.
- B. *But still I'll pray till heaven I've found* – until then, I will continue to serve Him (**Phil. 1:21-26. Rev. 2:10**).**
- C. *Lord lead me on to higher ground.***
1. Because, He has prepared a city for us (**John 14:1-4**).
 2. **Heb. 13:14**.

V. LORD LIFT ME UP – THE CHORUS – A CONTINUAL REQUEST TO BE THERE FOR US AND LIFT US UP

- A. And let me stand (**Eph. 6:13**).**
- B. *By faith on heaven's table land.***
1. The feast that awaits us (**Rev. 19:9**).
 2. In more than one parable, Jesus likened salvation to a great supper or feast (**Luke 14:15-17, 24, Matt. 22:1-14**).
- C. *A higher plane than I have found.* Oh, how much better heaven will be.**
- D. *Lord plant my feet on higher ground.* “Plant my feet” indicates one firmly rooted.**
1. Do we live our lives with the confidence and hope of heaven?
 2. Paul did (**2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8**).

VI. CONCLUSION:

- A. IF we miss heaven, we miss all there is.**
- B. If you are not in the body of Christ, let me invite you to make ready now, while you still have opportunity.**