

John 11:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

Analysis

They remove the stone at Jesus' command. Jesus lifts His eyes upward, signifying prayer to the Father. His posture demonstrates dependence and communion, modeling prayer for disciples. The address 'Father' reflects intimate relationship, not formal religious distance. Thanksgiving precedes petition—'I thank thee that thou hast heard me'—expressed in past tense, showing confidence that prayer was already answered. This demonstrates perfect faith: Jesus thanks God before the visible result. His prayer life models the believer's confident access to God.

Historical Context

Lifting eyes toward heaven was common Jewish prayer posture, acknowledging God's dwelling. Jesus' Aramaic term 'Abba' (Father) revolutionized prayer, expressing intimate relationship unavailable under old covenant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' upward gaze teach about the posture of effectual prayer?
2. How does thanksgiving before visible answer demonstrate perfect faith?
3. In what ways can we cultivate Jesus' confidence in prayer already heard?

Interlinear Text

ἦρεν	οὖν	τὸν	λίθον	οὗ	ἦν	ὁ	τεθνηκώς	
lifted	Then	G3588	the stone	from the place where	was	G3588	the dead	
G142	G3767		G3037	G3757	G2258		G2348	
κειμένος	ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	ἦρεν	τοὺς	ὀφθαλμοὺς	ἄνω	καὶ
laid	G3588	And	Jesus	lifted	G3588	his eyes	up	and
G2749		G1161	G2424	G142		G3788	G507	G2532
εἶπεν	Πάτερ	εὐχαριστῶ	σοι	ὅτι	ἤκουσάς	μου		
said	Father	I thank	thee	that	thou hast heard	me		
G2036	G3962	G2168	G4671	G3754	G191	G3450		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:25 (References Jesus): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

John 17:1 (References Jesus): These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Psalms 123:1 (Parallel theme): Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Luke 10:21 (References Jesus): In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Philippians 4:6 (Parallel theme): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

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