

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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**“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”**

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*What goes up must come down!* I've heard this statement many times during my lifetime. So I decided to try and track down the source to see if it is a trustworthy statement. Some things we hear will just not stand up to empirical testing. So from the perspective of someone who has thrown things into the air and watched them come down I can attest that I have observed that things going up will come down.

Adversely, can things that are always down ever go up? Hold that thought. Let's get back to considering the source. Who said this? And did this person prove to be a trustworthy source of information? Some people give credit for the statement to Sir Isaac Newton. No doubt this man was gifted in his thinking processes. It certainly seems that he learned a lot about gravity and its effects on our world. My first thought is that I would be quick to believe that he may have said it...or that he really knew what he was talking about. But further investigation reveals to me that the proverb probably did not originate with him. He may have actually disproved it as a working theory when he put forth a theory that when an object is moving upward from the earth at a sustained rapid rate it can effectively overcome the pull of gravity. Scientists and engineers based their ideas on that premise and in our lifetimes have demonstrated that this is how things go into orbit. So the force of something on the rise must be greater to escape the pull of the earth. Who said rocket science was hard? Just kidding! Now what does this have to do with spiritual things? Stay with me a little while longer while I head towards that direction.

A few days ago we were assailed with some mighty strong winds at our campus location. One of the resulting effects was that the awning in the front of the church building was lifted off of its supports and dropped onto the sidewalk below. The evidence was clear. It had lifted off...for a very short period of time. But having no sustaining power to keep it moving upward, it could not overcome the pull of the earth's gravitational field. So what went up truly did come down...hard! Such are things in the spiritual realm. There is a truth that is overwhelming to me. Earthly, or natural, creatures can never rise above their earthly influences. A man lives and dies and is buried and returns to the ground from which he came. This seems to be the nature of things. The nature of the natural man. Unless this person receives the power to overcome his earthly attachments and its bondage he will always be earthly in his nature. But when we become partakers of the divine nature...there is a supernatural empowering. There is a power that brings us to a higher level of living...it is the power of the resurrection. And it continually sustains us progressively upward. To higher ground. To heavenly ground. To holy ground. Consider the following admonition:

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. (Colossians 3:1-5)*

The point...if we want to be lifted up to higher ground, we must be found looking up to a higher God. To receive His power that lifts us beyond our earthly influences and sustains us toward living in holy places we must learn to worship the Most High God. Idolatry is so depressing...literally as well as figuratively. Idolatry is so deflating...it sucks the very life out of God's people. The Breath of God is given to us to raise us up, not blow us away. The evidence of the Spirit of God within a human being is that we can always see the result.

Is the power of God alive within you, stirring you to rise to the high calling of serving Christ? We can trust the Lord. He is the true source of high living...if indeed you have been raised up with Christ.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam