



The Mountain Top Experience

By Ben Godwin

Our family recently returned from a New Year's family reunion at Stone Mountain, Georgia. We rode the cable car to the summit and walked around, sightseeing and taking pictures. You could see the sprawling skyline of Atlanta in the distance to the West. While there, I began meditating on the Biblical significant of mountains. God has a history of taking people to the mountain top. In fact, He wants to take *you* there as well. Consider the following:

- Noah's ark landed on the top of Mount Ararat.
- Abraham built an altar on the top of Mount Moriah and called it Jehovah Jireh.
- God gave Moses the Law and the blueprint for the Tabernacle on Mount Sinai.
- David's Tabernacle was set up on Mount Zion.
- Solomon's Temple was built on Mount Moriah.
- Elijah rebuilt the altar of God and withstood the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.
- Jesus often resorted to the Mount of Olives to rest and pray.
- John saw the New Jerusalem from a mountain.

Many Bible characters had mountain top experiences. I believe God has one in store for us too in 2013. A mountain speaks of several spiritually significant things:

A Place of Elevation: On the plains, things loom over you; on a mountain, they are below you. The Apostle Paul wrote, God has "...Raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6) He wants to take you higher spiritually than you are right now. He wants to elevate you above the mundane things of this world so you can operate in the Spirit realm.

A Place of Perspective: You have greater visibility from a higher vantage point. In fact, at Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, Tennessee, you can see parts of seven states. On the mountain, God gives us clearer vision, greater insight, sharper discernment, and keener perception. You will see things on a mountain that you can't see on the ground. It's all a matter of gaining a higher perspective.

A Place of Refuge: A mountain is a natural fortress. You can find safety in its rocks, caves, and trees. It is a natural barrier for protection. Psalms 125:2 says, "As the

mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.” It is common in military strategy to establish position on the high ground. There is a big advantage to fighting downhill as opposed to fighting uphill.

A Place of Stability: Mountains are rock solid, unmovable, and unshakeable. Man-made things crumble in severe storms, mountains are unfazed. Psalms 125:1 declares, “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” If you’ve been on the mountain top with God, your faith will not waiver in the valley. He will bring stability to your life.

A Place of Revelation: Historically, God has moved for and spoken to many people on mountains. He wants to take us to the mountain top to reveal Himself to us so that we can overcome any and every valley we must walk through. Just as God revealed Himself to Abraham, Moses, David, and a host of other bible characters on various mountains, He will reveal Himself to you.

A Place of Victory: A valley is a metaphor for trials, hardships, or defeat; a mountain is a metaphor for victory! As the Gospel song says, “the God on the mountain is still God in the valley.” Oh, by the way, one of Jesus’ titles is the “Lily of the Valleys.” (Song 2:1) Notice it is plural. Once you’ve been to the mountain top with God, your faith will not waiver no matter how many valleys you encounter. Paul wrote, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ.... (2 Corinthians 2:14) God wants to enable us to walk in victory in every area of life.

Of course, we cannot live on the mountain top all the time. That’s not reality. Life is full of peaks and valleys. But those powerful experiences with God on the mountain will carry us through any valley we must face. No wonder the Psalmist could confidently say, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me....” (Ps. 23:4)

Take some time to meet with God on the mountain top. Your mountain top experience might come in a church service with other believers or alone with God in your private devotions. He will speak to you through His Word and His Spirit, if you will take time to listen. He wants to take you higher spiritually this year than you’ve ever been. Don’t be content to dwell in the lowland. We should all adopt the spirit of Caleb, who even at eighty-five years of age said, “Give me this mountain.” God has a mountain top experience waiting for you.

Ben Godwin pastors the Goodsprings Full Gospel Church.
Ben has authored two books which are available at Sam Glover Drug Store or at bengodwin.org.
His weekly television program can be seen on TV-16 & Charter #10
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