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## *The Living God Ministry*

"A Ministry of Reconciliation"

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

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# *The Mountain of Faith*

By

Bill Glover

In a Sabbath Bible study (Saturday) March 20, 2010 we chose *faith* as our topic for discussion. We began with the reminder that we were meeting over a telephone hookup with miles between all of us but the distance did not keep us separated in spirit nor from God through the study of His word. We also reminded ourselves that we are meeting on the day God made holy at creation and commanded humans to *keep it holy* - - "Remember the Sabbath day to KEEP it holy!".

## WHO WE ARE

Then we reminded ourselves who we are - - that we are "*sons of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ*" (Romans 8:14-17). And, that this is a weekly opportunity to remind ourselves of our calling from God - - a day to renew our relationship with our Maker. It is also a day of refreshing our spirit and innermost being (Isaiah 58:13-14) and a day of both physical and spiritual rejuvenation which is supposed to be a sheer delight as we are in communion with our Creator on the day He made holy at creation. We must also remember that the weekly Sabbath is a type of the millennial rule of Christ on this

earth and that we, who truly follow God through His word, are going to rule with Christ during the one thousand year reign (Revelation 5:8-10 and 20:4-6). Yes, we are destined to judge the world as well as angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3). We are the future rulers of this earth under Christ and all of mankind since the time of Adam is waiting with eager anticipation for us to become the spirit sons of God (Romans 8:19-23) so that they also can be resurrected and given their chance for salvation (see Revelation 20:5 compared with Ezekiel 37:1-14).

## RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT

Since we were at the time of this Bible study, only two weeks before observing the annual Passover - - in accordance with God's instructions to Paul (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) - - we then began a study of *faith* that makes us eligible to partake of the sacred symbols of the unleavened bread and the wine in a worthy manner. Only those who are truly FAITHFUL to God and His word should partake of these sacred symbols. It takes faith - - FAITH THAT WE DO NOT HAVE OF AND BY OURSELVES - - to properly serve God. It takes *a mountain of faith* as we saw during this Bible study. [NOTE: I then began writing this article during the Days of Unleavened Bread, 2010]

Let us, at this point, briefly review the commitment we should have made with God when we were converted and baptized. We should have realized that *at baptism* we were entering **AN ETERNAL CONTRACT** with God our Creator. Each year, as we partake of these sacred symbols, we are renewing that eternal contract with God. That is why Paul made it plain that anyone who did not properly discern the Lord's body and blood would be *sinning* against His body and blood of the Lord by partaking of these sacred symbols - - an extremely serious sin!

## THE MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

Let us now evaluate this MOUNTAIN OF FAITH, mentioned above, that each of us must climb in our true service to God. That "mountain

of faith” includes OUR COMPLETE FAITH AND TRUST that God is going to **transform** our fleshly human bodies into immortal bodies and into divine spirit that will then be incorruptible (see 1 Corinthians 15:50-54). It takes real **LIVING FAITH** to trust **our complete** - - our present and our future - - existence into the hands of God. Many, including those who “profess” to be Christians, cannot do this in complete faith. Many are afraid to die because they actually do not know what fate awaits them. Most merely have a hazy idea or hope of “going to heaven, floating around on a cloud and playing on a harp” for all eternity! Yet the Bible clearly teaches our reward is that of being kings and priests in positions of rulership **HERE ON THIS EARTH**.

If God the Father has called you (John 6:44) and you understand the words you are reading then you are one of those being trained for those positions in the kingdom of God to be established on this earth. Isaiah 11 briefly explains how peaceful this earth will be under the rulership of Jesus Christ and those He has trained for rulership. Zechariah 14 also shows what this earth will be like. Notice that all humans living on earth during that time will be required to keep God’s holy days. Isaiah 66:23-24 shows that humans will be **REQUIRED TO KEEP THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH**. A wonderful world is coming to this earth once Christ returns and begins His rulership.

## ABRAHAM CLIMBED HIS MOUNTAIN

Abraham is called the father of those faithful to God (Romans 4:16). He had perhaps **the highest mountain** of all to climb. A good friend, brother in Christ and fellow minister (Jack) sent to me a text written by Steve Troxel that I wish to share with you. It reads as follows:  
[Special Note: I have taken the liberty to place numbers for side notes at key points which refer to comments to be made later in this article.]

### Steve Troxel’s Letter

“When Abraham was over eighty years old, God made him a wonderful promise: ‘A son coming from your own body will be your heir. Look

up at the heavens and count the stars - - so shall your offspring be’ (Genesis 15:4-5).

“Many years went by without any indication that God would fulfill this promise.<sup>1</sup> Finally, when Abraham was one hundred years old (and his wife, Sarah, was ninety), God fulfilled His promise through the birth of Isaac. But when Isaac was a young boy, God told Abraham, to sacrifice his beloved son.<sup>2</sup>

“Genesis 22:2 ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him<sup>3</sup> there as a burnt offering<sup>4</sup> on one of the mountains<sup>5</sup> I will tell you about.

“We cannot even imagine<sup>6</sup> receiving this type of command from God. Abraham loved Isaac, and Isaac also represented the fulfillment of God’s promise. But Abraham didn’t even question<sup>7</sup> the apparent conflict<sup>8</sup> between God’s promise and His command . . . he simply believed and obeyed.<sup>9</sup> Abraham took Isaac and climbed the mountain,<sup>10</sup> placed him on top of a pile of wood, and took the knife<sup>11</sup> to slay his son (Genesis 22:10).

“Many people speculate about the turmoil in Abraham’s mind during this time, but Scripture gives no indication that Abraham even seemed anxious or concerned.<sup>12</sup> He believed in God,<sup>13</sup> believed His promises,<sup>14</sup> and his faith never seemed to waiver.<sup>15</sup> As Abraham was about to kill his son, God stopped him and provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice<sup>16</sup> (Genesis 22:13).

“God put Abraham through an unimaginable test of faith. . . but why?<sup>17</sup> The test wasn’t for God<sup>18</sup> - - surely God already knew of Abraham’s faith. God often tests us as a way of refining us and drawing us closer to Himself. But, I believe the main reason for Abraham being asked to climb the mountain was so we would have a clear picture<sup>19</sup> of what it means to believe in<sup>20</sup> and trust God.<sup>21</sup> “Belief is central to the gospel message. It is so important that God gave a picture through Abraham which allows us to truly understand<sup>22</sup> what Jesus meant when He said

‘Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

“God is calling us to believe. He is calling us to a life of faith<sup>23</sup> where we have such strong assurance of His presence that He is all we need . . . all we value and hold dear. Let’s give ourselves completely to Him, without ANY reservation<sup>24</sup> - - let us truly believe! Let’s give Him ALL our heart and be willing to sacrifice ALL<sup>25</sup> for His glory and honor. Let’s once and for all climb the mountain - - the mountain of faith!”<sup>26</sup>  
(End of Steve Troxel’s writing)

What did we learn from this summation of Abraham’s test written by Mr. Troxel? To gain the full meaning let us evaluate the 26 foot notes that I listed in his letter.

### THE 26 SIDE NOTES

Side note No. 1: There is nothing in the Bible that shows God had presented “clear evidence” to Abraham that He would fulfill the promises. Abraham had to wait decades for the actual promises to be fulfilled. We humans tend to get impatient if we have to wait “five minutes” on God. We tend to want God to jump at the crack of our whip not realizing that God is concerned with the end product THAT HE IS CREATING WITHIN US!

Side note # 2: God chose to ask of Abraham a sacrifice that was more meaningful to him than his own life. But there was an even deeper meaning. Abraham had been called and chosen by God to become THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL. In reality, he was to become A TYPE OF GOD THE FATHER who was willing to sacrifice His own Son (Jesus the Christ). God the Father was totally willing to sacrifice His own Son for the sins of mankind. God was then beginning to reveal His plan for mankind to a wayward humanity. Galatians 3:8 states clearly that “THE GOSPEL WAS ANNOUNCED (PREACHED) TO ABRAHAM.” In other words, God revealed His GRACE (UNMERITED PARDON FROM SINS - - THE GOSPEL OF

SALVATION) TO ABRAHAM - - the same grace you and I come under with God. Abraham had a deep desire to understand what God was doing with mankind and sought answers and God allowed him to “see” through spiritual eyes the plan of salvation (John 8:56). He greatly rejoiced at this revelation!

Abraham did NOT have access to all the knowledge we have today yet he was able to truly believe in and trust God. His example is recorded in the Bible for our benefit today.

Side note #3: Abraham was required to offer his son as a living sacrifice to God to symbolize that supreme sacrifice God the Father made with His own Son. But, it also is supposed to depict our offering our lives to God as THAT LIVING SACRIFICE that we are required to make to God with our entire life (see Romans 12:1).

Side note # 4: The “burnt offering” symbolized COMPLETENESS. The body of the animal is totally consumed. We are to TOTALLY relinquish our human nature to the Spirit of God for transforming into the very character of God - - a complete **REFORMATION**.

Side note # 5: “On the Mountain” refers to the mountain that *each of us* must climb. Each person must climb the specific mountain that God chooses *for him or her*. No one can climb our mountain FOR US! And in reality, though we at times wish we had “a different mountain” to climb, if we had to choose we would choose the one God has given to us rather than the one another climbs. I personally am very thankful God did not give to me the mountain He gave to Abraham!

Side note # 6: It is absolutely true that none of us can even begin to *imagine* being given a “mountain” like the one God gave Abraham. Imagine for a moment that it was you to whom God told to take your child and not only cut his throat and bleed him to death but also BURN HIS BODY once you killed him! Imagine yourself being in the shoes of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being led to the burning furnace? What about young Stephen (the first martyr) as they were stoning him

to death? Or the many others mentioned in Hebrews 11 who were murdered in horrendous ways? What we too often fail to realize and remember is that it will take *real faith* to make it into God's family - - with us humans it is impossible but with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE (Matthew 19:23-26). But let me make this point crystal clear. God has given each of us A SPECIFIC MOUNTAIN to climb and He will require each of us to climb OUR MOUNTAIN. But He will patiently work with us until we are able to make the grade - - this is called **THE PROCESS OF SALVATION**

Side notes # 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11: These points go hand in hand. Abraham was so sure of his faith in God he did not question the "why" or the "wherefore" of the command even though what he was commanded to do was seemingly in "conflict" with everything he knew about God. He merely "believed" and "obeyed" and "climbed" HIS MOUNTAIN and proceeded to do what he was told setting us an example.

Side note # 12: Abraham did not show any sign of anxiety or concern for himself or his future. How do we stack up in comparison? Abraham is the "father of the faithful." He is an example we should follow.

Side notes # 13, 14 and 15: Abraham had TOTAL FAITH in God and His promises. He practiced what David taught in Psalm 103 - - that God HEALS OUR SICKNESSES AND FORGIVES ALL OUR SINS. He believed and did NOT DOUBT and, as a result, God attributed this belief AS RIGHTEOUSNESS! (Compare James 1:2-8 with Galatians 3:6). We too can receive GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS by exercising the type faith Abraham demonstrated. Abraham had sufficient faith to KNOW THAT EVEN IF God allowed him to slay Isaac, God also had the power to raise him to life again (see Hebrews 11:19). Is this not a lesson for us?

Side note # 16: God provided Abraham with a "substitute" sacrifice. In like manner, He has provided a "substitute sacrifice" for us in the

person of Jesus Christ. Every year the true believers and followers of God partakes of the bread and the wine at the Passover to depict their acceptance of that complete sacrifice for sin. The Passover has two specific points. One is the actual death of Jesus for our sins. The second is **OUR PERSONAL AND INDIVIDUAL ACCEPTANCE** of that sacrifice by properly discerning the bread and the blood and partaking of the same in a truly humble and submissive fashion.

Side note # 17: The “**WHY**” OF Abraham’s test - - **AND OUR OWN TESTS** - - is made very clear throughout the Bible. We are being trained to become **THE VERY SONS OF GOD** (Romans 8:14-17). How many people truly **GRASP** what these verses are telling us? Do you personally and individually grasp that you are a **SON OF GOD, AN HEIR OF GOD AND A JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST TO BE GLORIFIED WITH CHRIST WHEN HE RETURNS TO THIS EARTH?** (Compare with 1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

Side note # 18: Please note that all this is **NOT** for God’s benefit personally - - **HE IS ALREADY GOD** and already has the love, the patience and the character to **BE GOD!** But we humans are given the opportunity to **BECOME GODS** in the very family of God. In the beginning God made us **IN HIS OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS** - - other than He first made us human so that once we have developed His character we can then be changed into spirit (see Genesis 1:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 15:42-54).

Side notes # 19, 20, 21 and 22: The Bible gives us a very clear picture of what God is doing in and through human beings. God is **CREATING THROUGH HUMAN BEINGS** sons for His very family. But we must first have a clear picture of who and what we are in Christ and learn to **EXPECT** God to finish the work He has begun in us. We are to learn to place our lives and our future totally in God’s hands. God is **NOT** going to allow any into His family who have not learned to turn their lives over to God totally. How many of us find ourselves trying to trust God but when He delays an answer **FOR OUR OWN GOOD** we then elect to look elsewhere for help? We become sick and

are anointed according to James 5:14. But when God does not immediately answer we feel the “need” to turn to doctors to preserve our human lives. Do we actually see our lives in God’s hands and do our actions demonstrate to God that our faith is truly in Him and Him alone? Have we taken the time to truly UNDERSTAND where we actually stand with God?

Side notes # 23, 24 and 25: We are temporarily in this flesh to learn to live the life of faith and to learn to eliminate and overcome all our human reservations and be willing to SACRIFICE ALL (including our human lives) FOR THE GLORY THAT COMES WITH BECOMING THE VERY SONS OF GOD - - GLORIFIED WITH CHRIST (See Romans 8:17).

Side note # 26: This “Mountain of Faith” God required Abraham to climb is exactly the same as the mountain we all MUST CLIMB. God is totally fair. He does NOT require more of one than He does another even though it might seem that occasionally He does. Let me at this point quote a memo I sent to many along with the writing by Mr. Troxel. I wrote:

“Dear All,  
Abraham had to WAIT for the promises God made to him - - and he is still WAITING for the COMPLETE PROMISE OF ‘ETERNAL SALVATION’ also made to him. God has not changed. What He has done for others HE WILL DO FOR US! It all boils down to LIVING FAITH. Paul explained that Abraham KNEW that even if God allowed him to kill Isaac GOD COULD RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD (Hebrews 11: 17). That is THE LIVING FAITH that we should all try to LEARN from God. But notice that Abraham had to GET UP AND GO to where God had commanded him and to make the ‘sacrifice’ God required. It does take effort (ACTION) on our part to serve God in the way He sets.

Hebrews 11:13 states clearly that all God’s true people served God faithfully yet all died *without receiving the promises* God gave.

Certainly most must have, on occasion, felt the burden was too much for them to bear. But God saw each through the trials and gave each victory in the end and salvation awaits all who endure and overcome (as promised 7 times in Revelation 2 and 3). We all need to carefully and prayerfully study James 1:2-18. This process of salvation is MUCH MORE THAN a mere “profession” of “faith” in “Jesus.” As God inspired James to write in James 2:17-26 the mere “claim” of faith WITHOUT DEEDS TO BACK IT UP IS OF NO VALUE SINCE SUCH DOES NOT SHOW GOD WHERE OUR INTEREST REALLY IS! As James said in verse 18, “We will show our faith BY OUR DEEDS!”

## THE MOUNTAIN JESUS CLIMBED

Have you ever contemplated the mountain God the Father assigned to Jesus? Before this earth was even formed (most likely billions of years ago) God the Father and the One who became Jesus the Christ determined the very plan of God (see 2 Timothy 1:9 and 1 Peter 1:20). It was preordained that the Logos (the Spokesman) come into this flesh as the Savior and dwell among humans (John 1:1-4). At the appointed time Jesus was born into this flesh (Ephesians 2:5-11). He lived this human life up to the point when He was to sacrifice His life for humanity. When the actual Passover occurred that year it was finally time for His DEATH. But before He died on the stake He had to be beaten mercilessly FOR OUR SICKNESSES (Psalm 103:2-3, 1 Peter 2:21-24 and James 5:14-15). The evening before His death He envisioned what was about to happen to His physical body and the pain and anguish He faced at the hands of evil men. Momentarily He experienced human fear over what He faced (see Matthew 26:38 and Mark 14:36) but He immediately caught hold of His mind and prayed “Nevertheless, NOT my will but your will be done.”

Here is the mountain Jesus had to climb. The entire plan of God of transforming human beings from human to divine into His family was riding on Jesus at that very moment. He did not dare fail to meet the test. He knew that it was the will of God that He endure this torture at the hands of the very humans He was sent to save. The weight of the entire universe was on His HUMAN SHOULDERS at that very moment in time. Regardless of the cost,

He had no choice but to succeed. Christ suffered and BLED for us - - HAVE ANY OF US SUFFERED UNTO BLOOD for the sake of God's plan for humans, including us individually? (see Hebrews 12:4-6). Jesus shed His blood so that you and I can have salvation and eternal life in His kingdom. That was the mountain He had to climb. Even after He was beaten mercilessly He had to hang on the stake for hours with nails tearing at His flesh and bones before He finally died for our sake!

Hebrews 3:15 and John 6:44 come into play at this point. If God the Father has called (SELECTED YOU AS ONE OF HIS SONS) then you have the obligation to NOT resist this calling but to respond to God. As Hebrews 11 shows, many have gone before us and have allowed God to equip them for His family! Only those who turn to God fully and allow Him to accomplish His will in them will be allowed into His family.

## WE ARE SPIRITUAL PIONEERS

Actually, we are more than just pioneers - - we are called to become the FIRST FRUITS of human beings to enter the very family of God. If you understand the words of this article then you are blessed above all humans who are alive. You will be among those who are resurrected to immortality (or changed into immortality) at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (see 1 Corinthians 15:49-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). You will be among those given positions of rulership on this earth under Christ (see Revelation 5:9-10, 20:4-6 and 1 Corinthians 6:2-3). Here then is what faces each of us. If we neglect or refuse this calling from God then we have only one fate - - CESSATION OF LIFE FOR ALL ETERNITY.

Did you know that billions of human beings are anxiously waiting on us (the called out ones) to enter the family of God so they can be given their chance to enter the family of God (see Romans 8:18-23). How shall we escape if we neglect or refuse such a great calling? (Hebrews 2:3).

## ENCOURAGEMENT

Where does this leave all of us? We should all be able to acknowledge we fall far short of the examples set by so many who went before us as recorded in the Bible. But we need to remember that EACH had his or her own mountain to climb. Abraham had a most difficult mountain to climb - - but, only with

the help of God, he climbed his mountain. The three men of Daniel 3 had a most difficult mountain to climb - - but they climbed it with God's help. Daniel had a most difficult mountain to climb - - but He climbed it with God's help. David had his own mountain to climb - - but with God's help he climbed it. And I could go on and on with many other examples. But I want to begin to close with just one more person to illustrate the point.

## A PROSTITUTE'S MOUNTAIN

God has specifically reserved a prime example of a mountain he assigned to a person whom He called and chose for His family. He regarded this person with great favor and sets her apart in His word - - the Holy Bible - - as an example for all of us - - especially those who allow themselves to be discouraged. This person is none other than what many would call a dirty, filthy prostitute - - A WHORE (see Joshua 2). As you study this account please note that she had *her own mountain* to climb. Her human life, and the lives of all her family, were literally on the line. Had her fellow countrymen known what she was doing, she and all her family would have been slaughtered. Her human life was literally at stake the same as your life and mine are at stake before God. Please also note that she was required to do several things - - to demonstrate her faith BY HER WORKS (James 2:17-18). Part of the "works" that established her faith was wholeheartedly embracing the God of Israel. She COMMITTED HER ALL TO GOD! That took LIVING FAITH to do that in light of her physical circumstances. God honored Rahab in different ways because of her faith in Him. Humanly speaking, He had her brought within Israel to the extent that she became part of the physical lineage of Jesus the Christ. But God even inspired his servants to acknowledge her and her faith in Him (see James 2:21-26, Hebrews 11:31 and Matthew 1:5). God does NOT look on others as we tend to do humanly!

Each one of us should take the time to candidly search our hearts and souls and ask God to help us determine whether we truly grasp the

calling He has given to us. Others who went before us have and are now are awaiting the return of Christ and the position He has for them. We are privileged to be among that group that will help God correct all the ills of this present evil world. Not only that, we will be joining this band of glorified beings **FOR ALL ETERNITY IN THE VERY FAMILY OF GOD.**

In conclusion, **JUST HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM YOU FACE?** Have you been required to shed **YOUR** blood over this problem? We all want to live but how badly do we want to **LIVE ETERNALLY FOR EVER AND EVER?** We all need to recognize that the mountain God has set for us is **TOO STEEP FOR US TO CLIMB BY OURSELVES** but that God has promised everything we need to climb it. Our part is to go to Him for the help we need. None of the patriarchs climbed their mountain ***ON THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND ABILITY***. Neither can we. The battle is God's but we are the ones who must go to Him for that help - - He will **NOT** force salvation on any of us. "For it is God **WHO WORKS IN US TO WILL AND TO DO HIS GOOD PURPOSE**" (see Philippians 2:13). God also says: "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). As Isaiah 65:24 **PLEDGES** "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." King Hezekiah proved this true because, when he turned his face to the wall and faced God squarely and began repenting God immediately answered him and sent Isaiah back to tell Hezekiah his prayer **HAD ALREADY BEEN HEARD!** (see Isaiah 38:1-5). What God did for Hezekiah and so many others He will do for us provided we turn to Him ***with our whole heart*** without fearing and doubting.

In closing let me review a point found in Hebrews 2:15 that explains why we too often do not receive the answers to our prayers - - why we are **NOT** climbing our own mountain! This verse reads: (Christ came to) "... free those who all their lives were held in **SLAVERY BY THEIR FEAR OF DEATH.**"

Let me give you a specific example of what this verse means in daily living. When I was first ordained many decades ago there was an

elderly lady in the Pasadena, California church who had a “heart condition.” She had been anointed by many ministers in accordance with James 5:14 but each time only received “relief” but not healing. Since I was a new minister it fell my lot to anoint her when she had an “attack.” After about four times of anointing her and her receiving “relief” I realized that I must say something to her. I patiently explained that GOD DOES NOT WORK THAT WAY - - that He has promised to HEAL and not just give “relief.” I then explained that if she continued to call on me for the anointing I would ask God to reveal to me WHY she was only receiving “relief” and not healing. She vigorously professed that this is what she wanted me to do and that is exactly what I did. After about four more times of being anointed, God gave me the answer. So the next time she called I tactfully revealed what God had shown me - - that she was NOT truly exercising faith but merely doing “token obedience” to James 5:14 which made her “feel” she had “obeyed” God and thus she RELAXED and got “relief” because her body and mind enabled her heart to function properly.

Needless to say, she became very upset with me. She cried and said “I am older than you, I have been in the church longer than you and here you are telling me I do not have faith!” It took a while to calm her down and I asked that she merely TUCK THOSE THOUGHTS AWAY AND PRAY ABOUT THEM IN THE EVENT GOD WANTED HER TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM THESE EXPERIENCES, which she was *willing* and *able* to do (I have found some people unwilling to do this evaluation and they continue to suffer). After about four more times of being anointed, as I arrived she said: “Before you anoint me this time I have something to tell you.” She then told me that God had revealed to her that what I had said was true - - that she had not been coming to Him in BELIEVING FAITH but out of fear (fear that she would die). This caused her to “panic” and to lose faith in God and His ability to do what He had promised. Fear and panic are the opposite of and INCOMPATIBLE WITH **FAITH** (see James 1:2-8). Fear drives out faith but FAITH DRIVES OUT FEAR (1 John 4:16-18). Please study these passages on your knees BEFORE GOD and ask Him to help you grasp their meaning and to give you the faith you need to overcome

***THE FEAR OF DEATH*** that enslaves us until faith in God chases fear away.

## MY MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

Due to the subject matter in this article I feel I would be remiss if I did not share a personal experiences with mountains I have had to climb. Some have actually scoffed at hearing of these examples but they are actually **SCOFFING AT GOD** and not the writer of this article. The only reason I am repeating these experiences is because some will accuse me of not understanding their plight when they need healing and are literally *facing death*.

I literally have faced death at different times but will only report one instance. It is a lengthy story but I will cut it short. Years ago a sore on my right shoulder blade erupted with a bloody mass of “proud flesh” overnight. The sore had been there for 15 years at that point. I went to a doctor to have this eruption evaluated. A biopsy was taken and evaluated and the news came back **POSITIVE** as cancer. The doctor explained that the cancer had developed its own blood source and that the blood would spread cancer cells throughout my body. He wanted to immediately operate and try and remove any cancerous cells he could “identify” and then fill me with chemicals in hopes of killing the cancer. He then explained that if he did not get it all he would go back in and cut away more of my body. I could visualize his taking away my right shoulder and right arm (I am right handed) and eventually my very life would be lost. He also explained that the cancer was aggressive and could take my life within a short period of time if action was not taken immediately. In other words, he was telling me that I faced death by this cancer but that he was willing to try and save my physical life.

With this in mind, no one can say I have never stared death in the face and been faced with a life and death situation. I thanked the doctor for his evaluation and recommendations but advised him I would choose another route to my problem. He became very angry with me and again

tried to convince me to let him try and save my human life. [See my article on HEALING for further information on this subject and other cases of healing as God healed this cancer in my body.]

Three times over the past five years blood has oozed out and saturated my tee shirt during the night as I slept. This problem is literally in God's hands. My life is of NO VALUE to me. If God should choose to allow me to die from this cancer then who am I to complain? I am going to die some day. I personally choose to die trusting God and God alone. But, it is absolutely necessary that I make crystal clear that THIS IS MY CHOICE AND MINE ALONE. No one should undertake such trust in God unless they know they have the faith to support that decision. The reason I can trust God is because he has shown me literally hundreds of times over the years that I can trust Him. I personally have no other choice. How can I preach healing to others if I cannot trust God for my healing? But I caution others that Christ said "According to your faith be it unto you!" Each person must believe and trust!

What it really boils down to is JUST HOW REAL IS GOD TO US? Do we see Him as the Almighty? Are we able to trust Him with our lives - - LITERALLY? So, we all fall short. That only means we need to be a little more diligent in our attitude toward God. Mainly, we must realize that WE NEED GOD'S HELP COMPLETELY. This mountain God has set before us to climb is IMPOSSIBLE FOR US without the help needed from God. I can tell you day after day repeatedly that you can trust God but you must learn this yourself - - no one can learn this for anyone else! We are to become INDIVIDUAL sons of God whom God can trust to do His will at all times and for eternity.

Please do not despair. If you grasp the meaning of what I am saying then God is calling and choosing you and will see you through these trials. He will FINISH THE WORK He has begun in you - - you can absolutely count on that! So lift up your hearts and realize that your redemption draws near and that God will NOT allow you to fail! God help you is my earnest prayer! Take the time to regularly study, on

your knees, Romans 8:18-39. If I can help you further, please let me know! My life has been spared several times so that God can use me to help others. My sharing these points with you does not mean you are automatically going to have that faith you need to trust God. But if you follow the example of the older lady mentioned and diligently take your lack of faith to God He will intervene for you too. You can count on that! ***YOU CAN CLIMB YOUR MOUNTAIN WITH GOD'S HELP!*** God be with you as you ***LEARN*** to exercise HIS FAITH!

[If you have not done so, you should read my article entitled “Why, Oh God, Why?” The information in that article should help you grow in faith in God.]

The purpose for The Living God Ministry is to summarize what God is doing in and through human beings as he prepares us for His family. We do not try to talk anyone into or out of any cherished belief or practice. Our commission from God is to teach the word of God and allow each person to decide what he or she can and will do about what the Bible teaches. Each person answers to God and NOT to any “church” or group of men. I have set forth the words of God from the Bible in this article - - it is now your responsibility to decide where you stand before God.

We each, personally and individually, must reach the point of spiritual growth that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego attained. We cannot know for sure that God will spare our physical lives but **WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW** is that we will trust and serve God even ***THOUGH IT COSTS US OUR PHYSICAL LIVES AS WE SECURE OUR ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD*** (Luke 17:33)... That is the **GOAL** God wants us to keep firmly in mind and strive to achieve. With God's help **THIS WILL BE DONE!**

## LESSONS FROM A PROSTITUTE

Many lessons can be learned from the prostitute Rahab. God wants us to see that: 1). He will have mercy on any regardless of their status in

life. 2). God does not view others as we humans do. 3). Our background or the meager circumstances of our lives should NOT defeat us for our trust is to be in God. 4). What God wants is a total commitment from each. 5). That the sins of ALL are covered by the sacrifice of Jesus. 6). Rahab did not allow her circumstances from CHOOSING TO COMMIT HERSELF TO THE MERCY OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL. 7). We are to GO FORWARD WITH GOD. Please read my article entitled “A New Beginning.” God will allow us to master our human circumstances if we will trust Him in faith. Let us CLIMB OUR MOUNTAIN FOR GOD IS ON OUR SIDE!

### DISCLAIMER

As I read over what I have written here, it is realized that this disclaimer is needed. It was my hope and keen desire to instill hope and encouragement to all by this article. But, I realize that some are going to allow the fact that SALVATION IS HARD TO DISCOURAGE THEM THINKING THEY JUST CANNOT MAKE THE GRADE - - CANNOT CLIMB THEIR OWN MOUNTAIN. That is because too many feel they somehow must become “worthy” of receiving God’s blessings. God has made it IMPOSSIBLE for us to achieve this goal *on our own strength*. One of the primary purposes for this article is to emphasize the FACT that WE CANNOT EARN OUR SALVATION - - no matter how hard we try. If you find yourself “defeated with such negative thoughts” then most likely you are relying too heavily on *your own strength* rather than on God. It is ONLY by the power of God that we can achieve salvation and climb our individual mountain! May God help us all!

