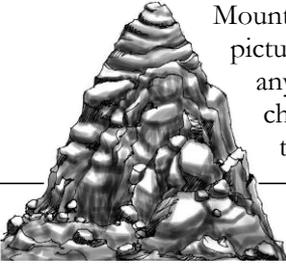


## NO MOUNTAIN TOO HIGH



Mountains! The word mountain immediately paints the picture of magnificence and resilience in the mind of anyone. Mountains appear (a) intimidating (b) challenging (c) insurmountable and (d) enduring. But the good news is that these physical mountains have been surmounted and climbed. Spiritual and psychological mountains are even easier to surmount, if God is with you.

Eric J. Horst, an accomplished mountain climber and a teacher of climbing performance, recognized globally for his innovative strength and mental techniques, in one of his lectures on “Building Mental Muscles” wrote: “Consider that everything you are and will become is a direct function of your thoughts. Thoughts are precursors to almost every significant action you make . . . For instance, when you recognize negative fearful thinking, you can immediately supplant such thoughts with positive imagery and productive self-talk. When you identify growing physical tension, you can engage in slow, deep breathing and redirect your thinking to a calming topic.” He went on, “the impact of improving the quality of your thinking can’t be overstated both in terms of immediate results and long-term improvement. The goal is to modify your thinking in ways that will help you solve problems – instead of wallowing in them, challenge them . . . and compel intelligent action toward your goal – instead of backpedaling at the first sign of adversity,” he concluded.

Your attitude to situations determines whether you’ll be triumphant or trodden down, by them. This gives credence to the saying that “when the going gets tough, the tough gets going.” You don’t need to shrink at the face of adversity or challenges, ***“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small”*** (Proverbs 24:10). Sometimes, out of fear, your mind or thoughts create a picture bigger than the problem you are really facing. But when you gather yourself together, trying to control your thoughts, you will begin to confess positively. At this point, you are already half way through to your victory! Talk about feelings? Of course, at times your feelings motivate and encourage you but at other times, they pull you down; so, your feelings should not be the sole basis of your actions.

Now as a child of God, who has been washed in the blood of the Lamb, you need to be wiser than the learned men and women of this world. You have Jesus Christ ***“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”*** (Colossians 2:3). You have better principles and surer paths to victory, and to flying above your mountains and staying atop your

challenges in life. We will consider them. Your actions and decisions must be based on Christ and all He accomplished for you at Calvary.

This is the life of a Christian; a life of Faith. ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight”*** (2 Corinthians 5:7). A life of faith in Christ will not always be easy but it is the only life that surely offers you victory in all circumstances. ***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*** (Hebrews 11:1). Faith believes what God says in His word though you have no visible or immediate proof, other than that God has said it. You received Christ by faith, were forgiven of your sins by faith, led by the Spirit by faith, even healed by faith. Likewise overcoming your challenges in life is by faith; it is no different.

It is only when you fail to use the eyes of faith to view that situation which is before you, that the devil will magnify it and present it like a mountain. And once he succeeds in doing this, he brings in fear inside you and uses this to pin you down to your problem. Your focus on Christ and the cross shifts. Then you may start seeking for other alternative solutions, which are not helpful at all but worsening. Any other thing will fail but faith solidly built on Jesus Christ can never fail; it stands the test of time. Jesus, when on the Cross, declared, “it is finished!” Your sins, sicknesses, sorrows and sufferings have been laid to the cross. Receive this by faith – this is the number one step to climbing your mountain. Then, like the apostles you can cry out, *“Lord, increase our faith.”* This can be your prayer today; for faith is the victory that overcomes the world. ***“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”*** (1 John 5:4).

***“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”*** They are mighty through the power of the Holy Ghost. The second weapon to your surmounting your mountain is the weapon of prayer. You increase your faith through prayer and also exercise your faith in prayer. What is that problem that is standing before you like a mountain? Why not prayerfully make your confession of faith? ***“Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel*** (put your name here) ***thou shalt become a plain: and he (I) shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it”*** (Zechariah 4:7). The mountain here before Zerubbabel was a spiritual one. What is that mountain before you? Is it that of unsaved husband, wayward children, difficult in-laws, family members, childlessness, joblessness even as a graduate, troublesome neighbors, incurable or chronic sickness so-called, demonic attacks and oppressions, failure in almost all you lay your hand to do, crisis in the family, constant denial of your rights because of your faith in Christ? Just like Zerubbabel’s mountain, the word of authority

to it is that it shall become a plain. It shall be rooted out in Jesus' name.

***“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:22,23).*** Prayer and faith go together. Exercise your authority in prayers and believe what you have decreed. Prayer means pouring your heart before God Who alone can help you. How we need to pray! When you pray, you create things and bring them to being. The authority has been given; use it. How is your prayer life? Learn to take everything to God in prayer, no matter how big or little. Hold hands with your believing husband in agreement and make the decree. ***“Again, I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19).*** Remember “. . . *What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:24).* “. . . *Men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1).*

***“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed” (Acts 16:25-26).*** Beloved, you are to offer the sacrifices of praise unto God no matter the surrounding circumstances; in joy or pain. Prayers ask but praises receive. If all else fail, try praise! Praise works wonders. When you praise God, you move Him to do the impossible. Some people only praise God when the going is good. It ought not so to be. Do you know that some challenges in your life are for God to show forth His power and omnipotence through them? Have you forgotten Job? Did he ever know that God was trying to prove a point to the devil? Beloved, as a child of God, who is faithful in all his ways, God will never leave you in that situation, but he wants to work out His glory in your life. Paul and Silas from our text prayed and praised God and ALL the doors were opened. The whole prison and prisoners felt and witnessed the power of God. There and then souls were converted to Christ. Sister, no mountain is too high for you. Keep on praising God after speaking to your mountains. He knows what you are passing through. He may want to use your condition to reach out to others too and to perfect His praise. So, why not praise Him? ***“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*** Will you stop grumbling and start to praise God today? The path to victory is simply this: ***“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication***

***with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*** (Philippians 4:6). The songwriter says, “Sing when your trials are greatest; Never give up to your sorrows.” Don’t also forget that he/she who sings prays twice. The Bible the word of God is a mine of treasure. Wonderful and sure promises of God assuring us of His help and grace in times of need are replete therein. We only need to appropriate these promises to ourselves and our situations. But the question is: how can we claim these promises when we don’t study the word of God to know them? ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom . . . This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”*** (Colossians 3:16; Joshua 1:8).

All you need to make it in life is in the Bible! No wonder the devil has closed the Bible of so many Christians and choked their desire to hear the word of God. Jesus, when He was tempted by the devil, overcame him with the written word of God. Jesus himself the captain of our salvation said, “. . . ***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God***” (Matthew 4:4). How often do you attend Bible studies in the church to fortify yourself? When you attend, do you go as a serious seeker of the kingdom of God in these evil days? This brings in the issue of your quiet time with God. Is it still a time of hearing from God through His word? What about the family altar? All these will help to build your faith and trust in God, give you victory all day, and draw you closer to Him that has promised you victory. They also open the doors of blessings into your life and family as you start and end the day with God, feeding on His word.

Do not seek for help elsewhere; no matter the kind of storm that is raging or however high the mountain may seem. The word of God warns, ***“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin”*** (Isaiah 30:1). The word is the only light that will tell you when you are being wrongly counselled. It is a light to your path. How you need to love the word of God!

Worry and anxiety are not characteristic of the life of a godly child of God. You have God’s unfailing grace to see you through. Jesus has given unto us His peace, not as the world gives. Jesus says, ***“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me . . . Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”*** (John 14:1,27). Peace! In the face of any mountain, peace! That is your secret to

victory. Note that Jesus repeated this twice in the same chapter where we read. In verse 18 of same chapter, Jesus promised He will never leave you comfortless. Why then is your heart troubled? Jesus cares for you more than you do for yourself. After all, it was for you He bled and died. So, what else can He not do for you? Lean on Him now and trust His love. Don't worry; for this is but the night. The morning of joy will soon overtake your sorrows. ***“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning”*** (Psalm 30:5).

Beloved, I want you to understand that God will never allow any temptation greater than you to come your way (1 Corinthians 10:13). This is indeed why no mountain will be too high for you to scale through. Sometimes the challenge you face is part of the cross you have to bear as a Christian or a follower of Christ. ***“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man (woman) will come after me, let him (her) deny himself, (herself) and take up his (her) cross, and follow me”*** (Matthew 16:24). As you press on the upward way the more you climb, the greater your challenges may be, but the greater the grace will be also; for ***“to him (her) more is given more is expected.”*** These seeming difficult circumstances or mountains challenge your faith and tend to ask you, “where is your God? Do you still believe Him?” This should draw you closer to God as you depend on His Omnipotence to strengthen your faith. Remember, no trials, no testimonies. No cross, no crown. No Rose without thorns. What are you facing? What is that scary mountain? You can go through! You can scale it! ***“God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early”*** (Psalm 46:5). Do away with doubt and unbelief. ***“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”*** (Matthew 17:20). The authority has been given; speak to that mountain to move; Jesus said you can move your mountain, but you shall not be moved. There is hope for you then. You will come out triumphant. Storm of life will not swallow us. ***“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock”*** (Psalm 27:5). God will set you upon a sure ground, upon a rock. You must not stay at the valley or bottom of that mountain. Praise God! There is a lifting! ***“When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person”*** (Job 22:29).

Friend, all these promises of God are for His children and these principles can only work for those who know the God of heaven, who have believed

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in the atoning blood of Jesus and have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and who are living a holy life ***“He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands”*** (Job 22:30). So please maintain your integrity. No mountain will defy you. If you are yet not born again, then confess your sins to God and invite Jesus Christ into your life. It is only sin that prevents God’s hand and power from being manifested in our lives (Isaiah 59:1-2). If you have been visiting herbalists for “solution” to these problems, you must repent of this and desist from such henceforth. In case you’ve been given charms, concoctions, red or white or any color of cloth or candles, you must produce them for burning, including occult books. Do this with proper counseling from godly men and women of God.