

Sometimes It Takes A Mountain - Kimo Hoopai, March 10, 2024

Mountains symbolize victory, refuge, and the glory of God, and are locations for worship and sacrifices. Mountains also represent obstacles and challenges that must be overcome in our faith journey. Just as a mountain stands tall and firm, we can find strength and refuge in God's presence.

Matthew 17:20 NIV *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Jesus rebuked the disciples for insufficient faith. He was showing how important faith would be in their future ministry. If you are facing problems that seem as big and immovable as a mountain, turn your eyes from the mountain and look to Jesus for more faith. Then you will be able to overcome the obstacles that stand in your way.

1. Anticipate Trials - many scriptures warn us that the spiritual life is filled with dangers. In fact we are told that trials are not unusual but are a normal part of a Christian's life.

Hebrews 12:1 NIV *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,*

James 1:2-4 NIV ² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

2 . Achieve Balance in Your Walk - The devil has schemes and strategies to use against believers. Ephesians 6:11 NIV *Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV ²⁶ *In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.*

3 . Assemble a Support Team - Having brothers and sisters in the Lord, who is in the word and prayer.

Proverbs 18:24 NIV *One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

4 . Avoid Distractions - We all are focused on something, and that focus provides a set of values and priorities that will keep us faithful to Christ- or not.

Philippians 3:14 NIV *I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.*

5 . Align Your Perspective Philippians 3:20 NIV *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Hebrews 11:13-16 NIV ¹³ *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.* ¹⁴ *People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.* ¹⁵ *If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.* ¹⁶ *Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

In Closing: It's important to keep our spiritual compass aligned at all times. Not to do so is to risk acting like the Israelites who wanted to go back to Egypt to their fish , garlic, and vegetables. They lost their way and died before getting to their true home, their promise land. Don't get comfortable walking away from your mountains. Face them and walk through it with Jesus Christ. Amen