

THE FAITH SERIES

"WHO MAY ASCEND THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD?"

Based on the audio series by Dennis Peacocke, this 7-day devotional invites you to move beyond simply hoping for deliverance from life's challenges, to embracing an active faith expressed through a life aligned with God's will and ways. Inspired by King David's words in Psalm 24, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?", we will explore how God uses the mountains we face to shape, mature, and strengthen us. By viewing problems as opportunities, we can deepen our faith and draw closer to Him.



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Based on audio teachings by Dennis Peacocke

DAY 1 A Different Kind of Faith

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. —Psalm 24:3-4

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. —Hebrews 11:6

What is your definition of faith? For many, faith looks like praying, "Give me faith to be healed," or "Give me faith for financial provision." When God honors our faith in difficult situations, we rightly praise Him for His faithfulness. But all too often, we return to our default mode of everyday living. This can lead to a view of faith that is event-based or outcome-driven. While these are certainly valid aspects of faith, there is a fuller expression available to us that opens up a whole new way of living: a steadfast faith that does not rise and fall with our circumstances but rests securely in the unwavering character of God.

The path to maturity in Christ can be likened to ascending a mountain. The climb is not easy—it requires time, effort, and perseverance. It takes faith! And there is no way up except through the process of discipleship. The sustainability of the climb depends on a trail of disciples, trekking hand in hand.

A disciple can be defined as a "disciplined learner." The ongoing commitment of discipleship provides us opportunities to exercise and strengthen the muscle of faith. Ultimately, this is about learning to see things the way that God declares them to be—the way they truly are when we walk by the Spirit! We must daily seek to walk (or climb!) with this declaration and perspective as the guiding force in our lives.

We are called to be men and women in Christ who understand the way of the Lord on the mountain—people willing to give ourselves to teaching, guiding, and living out true discipleship. Our faith must evolve from simply hoping for deliverance from life's challenges to embracing an active faith rooted in the promises, goodness, and unchanging nature of God.

Faith, in its fullest
expression, does not
rise and fall with our
circumstances but rests
securely in the unwavering
character of God.

2 A Faith That Matures

KEY SCRIPTURES:

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. —Hebrews 2:17-18

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. —Ezekiel 36:26

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.—Romans 12:2

God's Word reveals His purposes—and once you understand those purposes, the Scriptures come alive with new clarity and meaning. You cannot rightly interpret the Bible without understanding what God is ultimately after. It is not His desire to take us to Heaven unprepared, immature, and unable to experience real victory here on earth. Put simply, it is God's will that we grow up and mature in our faith!

Despite our preference for ease, most growth and maturity happen at the point of conflict or in the midst of challenge. Salvation indeed brings new joy and freedom, yet we still live in a fallen world rife with difficulties. It's tempting to think that Jesus wants to rescue us from our problems, but the opposite is true: He wants us to live as He lived, surrendered to the Father and shaped through His sufferings (Hebrews 5:8).

Jesus is a mountain climber, not a flatlander. He ascended the mountain of life and was victo-

rious in every circumstance. Hebrews 2 tells us that Jesus took on the very nature of humanity so He could experience our struggles firsthand and learn—just as we do—to resist the attacks of the enemy.

This awareness changes how we pray. Our prayer life shifts from "Lord, deliver me" to "Lord, teach me how to block and take ground." Embracing the idea that God equips us for battle rather than removing us from it can stir up unbelief—deep-seated doubt that whispers, "That might work for Jesus, or Paul, or someone else, but not for me. You don't understand my life. I can't get victory over this. I can't forgive. I can't let go." But it is exactly this unbelief that keeps us from learning the very defenses God intends for us to develop.

The moment we begin to pursue comfort over calling, we jeopardize becoming who God created us to be.

The flatlander's goal is to avoid pain; it's an instinct that lives in all of us. By nature, we want to minimize pain and risk—but you cannot ascend the mountain of the Lord with that mindset. The moment we begin to pursue comfort over calling, we jeopardize becoming who God created us to be. Mountain climbing is inherently filled with challenges and difficulties, and the climb exposes what's inside. It reveals corrupt motives, broken perspectives, and ungodly desires. This kind of self-revelation is painful but necessary for healing and transformation.

Yet, that's not all it reveals! The climb also uncovers the beauty God has already placed within us. It reveals the new heart He has given you (Ezekiel 36:26), the renewed mind formed in Christ (Romans 12:2), and the soul sanctified through the New Covenant and made alive by His Spirit. Pain and risk don't just reveal what is ugly—they expose the holy work God has done within you.

Without the climb, nothing is revealed. And without revelation, we cannot mature in Christ. ^

KEY SCRIPTURES:

The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!" —Psalm 110:2

Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. —I Timothy 4:7-10

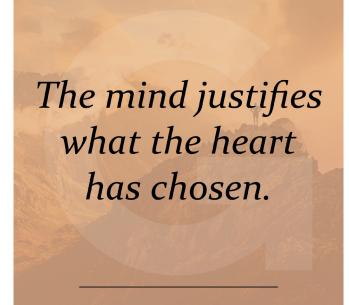
We all have mindsets—ways of viewing God and reality—that serve as both our strengths and our weaknesses. There are also many preconceived notions surrounding the subject of faith. Many of us have been taught that the primary function of faith is for God to deliver us from trials and fix our problems. That's not wrong, but it's only part of the story. Yes, God can deliver, but sometimes He does not. He isn't in the business of rescuing us from the very challenges He allows in order to mature us.

Faith, in its fullness, is not just believing that God will deliver me from the hard things of life, but that He will use them to train and transform me for His glory. Because most of us have been taught a version of faith focused almost exclusively on rescue, we tend to fixate on Scriptures about deliverance or escape. We look to the Word to reinforce our predetermined agendas because the mind justifies what the heart has chosen.

Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, we can begin to pray differently: "God, train me in this situation. Don't fight my battle for me—keep me here and teach me how to rule in the

presence of my enemies" (Psalm 110). We are exhorted in 1 Timothy 4 to be nourished on the truths of the faith, persevering in the pursuit of godliness. We are called to ongoing training and obedience since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. God gives us faith so the Holy Spirit can dwell in us and bring us to what might be called the "commitment zone"—a place where we continue to mature and grow, and our new nature in Christ is revealed.

So, when trials come, don't just ask God to take them away—ask Him to train you through them!



4 | Faith for Revelation

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" —Matthew 4:4

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. —2 Corinthians 9:8

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." —Romans 1:17

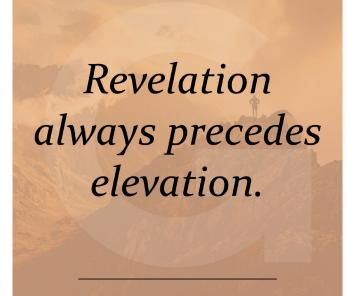
The only way up the mountain is by revelation. There's no other way. And friend, you can't live on my revelation—and I can't live on yours. There are no grandchildren to revelation. You either have it, or you're living on someone else's for a short season. It's okay to live on borrowed revelation for a while—otherwise none of us would ever learn anything. But there comes a time in the Spirit when you sense you're being called higher. **Revelation always precedes elevation.** That is the nature of the Kingdom of God. Whatever revelation you receive, know this: The climb is about to begin.

Every revelation you receive from God carries with it divine authority to walk it out. The level of authority you have is directly tied to the weight of the revelation you've been given. In the "backpack" of every revelation is the power and authority to fulfill it. However, new revelation usually requires death to something else we've carried to that point. There is always a cost to revelation—something old must pass away. Saying yes to something means saying no to something else.

Our journey up the mountain is sustained by what Scripture calls "a proceeding word"—a

current, living word that God speaks to us to begin a course of action. We must learn to live by proceeding words (revelations) that take us up the mountain path from Point A, to Point B, to Point C, and so on. Sometimes God will have you camp in one spot for what feels like a painfully long time—so long that you're tempted to make something happen on your own. Don't rush ahead presumptively. Stay attentive and listen for His voice. Scripture is full of stories of men and women who faced the consequences of stepping out apart from His word.

As we ascend the mountain, we can be confident that God has already made provisions for us. There are base-camp supplies, as well as caches further up the trail: hidden resources you didn't know you'd need until the moment



you needed them. People you haven't met yet. Wisdom you hadn't imagined. Revelation that wasn't yours at the start. These caches are waiting for you. Keep walking by the proceeding word and resist the urge to manufacture your own; you'll regret it, and so will your fellow trekkers!

Faith is the willingness to let God test your revelations. It is the determination to focus on the foundations He is building in your life, even while your understanding is still being cemented. Revelation is not the end—it's just the beginning of the climb. \wedge

5 | Faith of a Mountain Climber: The Piton of Revelation

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. —James 1:22

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. —Hebrews 11:8-12

You cannot grow in the flatlands. You can be saved and even live a relatively comfortable life—but you cannot grow there. You won't develop the spiritual muscles required for the climb—or receive the kind of revelation strong enough to support the full weight of your calling.

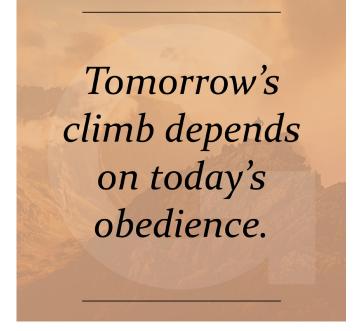
The Cliffs of Revelation

To safely climb a sheer cliff, you need anchor points. In traditional mountaineering, climbers drive steel spikes called pitons into solid rock to anchor their ropes and protect their ascent. Using a hammer, you would wedge the piton into a crack in the rock, attach a carabiner and rope, and pull yourself up to the next foothold. Surveying your route, the process would repeat:

find the next anchor point and literally pound and wedge your way up the face of the mountain.

Pitons are only given to climbers. They are never handed out on the flatlands. If you're feeling stale or distant in your walk with God, ask yourself: What did I do with the last piton I received? Tomorrow's climb depends on today's obedience. And today's strength was built on yesterday's response to truth (James 1:22).

In fact, you can almost count on a sheer cliff appearing soon after receiving a major revelation. That's because a major revelation is a piton given by God to anchor your next step. Your obedience is the hammer that drives the revelation securely into the Rock so you can trust it will bear the full weight of the climb. That's what real faith is about.



Biblical faith—the kind we see in Hebrews 11—is not just about believing something; it's about acting on revelation. It's about obeying when the next step looks like a sheer cliff. These men and women received a word from God, came to the edge, and obeyed. They pounded the piton into the rock, looped the rope through it, and climbed—anchoring their lives, families, futures, and reputations to the word God had given them.

Real faith means obeying revelation and relying on God's strength to carry you higher.

The Law of the Climb

Every climber is subject to this basic spiritual law: Use it or lose it. Revelation that is not acted on—revelation that remains untested by obedience—evaporates. It loses its power. The only way to ascend the mountain is to obey the last word God gave you. That word was your piton, your anchor in the rock. And the sobering truth is this: When you resist or delay obedience, it's not just that you stop climbing—the anchors beneath you also begin to loosen.

This is why some people backslide into things they were delivered from decades ago. You wonder, *How is that possible? I know I was set free.* Jesus explained it plainly: "To the one who has, more will be given; but from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away" (Matthew 13:12). When revelation is ignored, even past victories begin to erode.

More than once in my journey, I've questioned God and hesitated to obey. I could almost hear the creaking sound of spiritual pitons beneath me beginning to give. In that moment, the Holy Spirit would quietly remind me of the hard-fought battles that brought me here:

"That anchor—do you remember what it cost you?"

"And that one—remember? That was hammered in with tears when your family was young and your resources were thin."

"And the one below that—that came when you were fresh out of college, new in the faith and just learning My voice."

"Further down—are you sure you want to let that one go?"

And then the one that still shakes me—it wasn't just a vertical climb but a gut-wrenching overhang. Faith pulled me out over open space with nothing but God's word to hold me. I'm not losing that one!

When you start looking back down the mountain at what each step cost, you realize how high the price would be to let go. Anchors matter. Obey the last word. Drive the piton deep and trust the Rock—because what holds you now is everything you've obeyed before. \wedge

6 | Faith for Navigating Plateaus and Releasing Baggage

KEY SCRIPTURES:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. —Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. —Hebrews 12:1-3

Plateaus for Rest

A ll climbers hit plateaus. A plateau is a place designed for rest, not for residence. Climbing out of a plateau tests our commitment to reaching the top of the mountain. When we walk by faith, the Holy Spirit helps us discern the difference between God's designated time for rest and the temptation to quit the climb for a while.

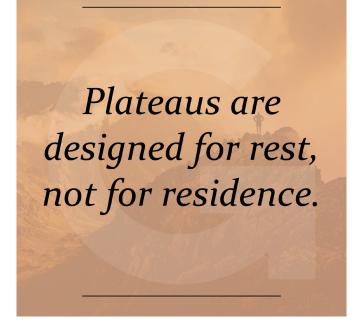
If you're going to be a mountain climber, you must understand that God, in both His mercy

and testing, will allow plateaus in our lives. Some plateaus may last a month. Others may last for years.

When you're on a plateau, the worst thing you can do is: 1) feel condemned, or 2) refuse to rest. If God has given you a plateau, it's a gift. It means He knows something is coming that requires your strength, and He's giving you time to recover before the next climb.

The Baggage of Sin

The higher the altitude, the less baggage you can carry. You can carry a lot of sin at 50 feet. At 1,000 feet, it's harder. At 2,000 feet, your breath begins to go. At 2,200 feet, you're faced with a decision: Either drop the sin and keep climbing, or stop here. Sin clings like excess



weight, draining your energy; unless you lay it down, it will keep you from going where God is calling you.

Flatlanders don't have to make the hard choices that come with thinner air and a heavy pack. You won't grow at sea level because you're never forced to choose between your comfort and your calling. The higher the climb, the less you can carry. Growth demands elevation—and elevation demands surrender.

As you ascend the mountain, this cycle will repeat:

- Revelation and a preceding word that lead to a cliff to climb
- A plateau offering rest, recovery, and time to gain strength
- · A shift in the spiritual atmosphere that signals a new level of calling
- To go further, more baggage must be released
- A new piton of revelation is given which begins the cycle again

Remember, you were never meant to camp halfway up the mountain—your calling is found at the top. \wedge

7 | Faith and Worship

KEY SCRIPTURES:

You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! —Isaiah 55:12

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. —I Peter 1:8

When climbing the mountain, we become aware of two competing forces: the law of gravity and the law of photosynthesis. The climb is harder because the weight of our mass is constantly pulled down by gravity. Thankfully, God also created the law of photosynthesis which causes all living things to reach toward the sun. If photosynthesis was not more powerful than gravity, everything would collapse under its own weight, we'd have no food to eat, and life would cease to exist. Why aren't trees, grass, and vegetation flattened by the law of gravity? Because photosynthesis is stronger! All life reaches toward the sun. As we climb the mountain, the law of the sun (Son) is greater than the weight and oppression of our sin. It is more powerful than the force pulling down on our earthly frame.

The trees and flowers worship God as they reach higher every day. The minerals, water, and nutrients from the soil are all designed with one purpose: to give them more mass to reach toward the sun. That's incredible, when you think about it! Everything God created is reaching toward the Light.

1 Peter 1:8 talks about "joy unspeakable and full of glory" that comes from loving and trusting Jesus Christ. When you feel the light pulling you up, greater than the forces pulling you down, you become a worshiper. Worshipers experience the higher law and exclaim, "This is

incredible! Despite the power of gravity pulling me down, despite the pain, death, and agony I've experience on the climb, I rejoice in the law operating in me that pulls me up, ever higher and higher. Against my will. Against my weight. Against my own judgment. Against my sanity. Against everything in me that would cause me to quit. There is a higher law pulling me up."

Every cliff we scale allows us to look back in wonder and worship. Every plateau we leave behind causes us to fall on our faces and thank God for His proceeding word. When you climb, you stand on tested truth and cannot help but rejoice in it.

May you continue your climb of faith in the Lord, seeking revelation and being obedient to it! ∧

The law of the sun (Son) is greater than the weight and oppression of our sin.



For more resources on faith from the ministry of GoStrategic, visit: www.gostrategic.org/faith