

## **"Is It All Downhill From Here?"**

In case you missed it, Friday, June 21, was the longest day of the year. For the next six months, our days will get progressively shorter. For those who dislike the hot weather, it's all downhill from here, for those who love the hot weather, it's all downhill from here.

There are far too many saints of God who sit on Apostolic pews that have that same way of thinking in regards to their walk with God. They look at the day that they obeyed Acts 2:38 as the crowning achievement in their relationship with God. It was the day that their lives went from chaos to order. It was deliverance day, the day they felt the happiest, the day they felt they would live for God forever.....

Then life happened. We found out people weren't happy that we were going to THAT church. Our friends were no longer going to hang out with us because we weren't FUN anymore. Our co-workers couldn't understand why we weren't laughing at their jokes anymore. When you first got into church did you ever make this statement, "I don't understand why everyone doesn't want to live for God." Only to find out that everyone really doesn't want to live for God.

The joy you felt, the excitement you felt is now replaced by uncertainty and anxiety. Time works on everyone's relationship with God. As a new convert, I am sure you heard from some "seasoned" saints of God, "Don't worry, you'll learn what it's like." What were they saying? "It's all downhill from here."

That runs contrary to scripture:

Isa. 9:6-7

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Life doesn't need to drag us to the place where we think It's all downhill from here. We just got finished with Pacific Coast Camp, our young people who were touched anew and afresh don't need to think, "Great, it's all downhill from here."

It doesn't need to be all downhill from here. The world can't make it all downhill from here, the devil can't make it all downhill from here, but your feelings can make it all downhill from here.

Deut. 1:31

31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

Most of our time living for God is done in the WILDERNESS.... The only place where we feel safe and protected is in the church or our homes. The environment in most of our workplaces is hostile to living for God. When we are out in public, we are in an environment that is openly hostile to living for God. Schools also are hostile to living for God.

Yet, Moses reminded the children of Israel, it was in the wilderness that you SAW how the Lord carried you. We need to remember, God carries us in the wilderness. As parents, we need to remind our children that God carries us in the wilderness.

Ps. 23:4

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

We can't run and hide, we can't retreat to our little corner of the world. We can't think, "It's all going to be downhill from here." It's in the wilderness we find out how powerful this God we serve really is.

2 Cor. 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

His grace is sufficient for the wilderness. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

One of my favorite prayers in the Bible is found in Exodus 33:

Ex. 33:13-18

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

When we feel like we are in a wilderness, when we feel like we have no hope, when we don't know what the future holds, we need to get alone with God and pray, I beseech you, I need to see your glory.

Php. 3:10

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Isa. 46:4

4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

It shouldn't be all downhill from here. He will carry us from beginning to end.

Heb. 2:9-18

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.