

January 30, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Mark 9:1-4, 7 *And He said to them, “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.” After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” (NIV)*

Have you ever experienced a ‘Mountain-top’ moment? You know, when it seemed like you were lifted up into the presence of God. Now I’m not saying that this literally happened, but it seemed like it. There have been moments in my life where I know I was truly in the presence of God and that He was doing something miraculous. And this is not focused on some ‘miracle act’ or ‘emotional high.’ This is based on knowing that you are experiencing the very presence of the LORD. Now, may I say parenthetically, that this should be our norm as Christians, but it is usually not. We get way too focused upon the things around us and the desires of our own selfish nature. I recall the many fruitful years of youth ministry and there was always a time during a ‘retreat’ where it seemed that the LORD just inhabited the place and every selfish teen and adult realized that He is much more important than the things we have been living for. Many of you reading this may have been there when this moment happened. I recall one in particular when Emery Gadd and Al Denson were leading a worship session. It was as if the LORD had settled on the ‘mountain’ and the cares of this world were stripped away. Every thought at that moment was on His glory and our purpose. It was on that night that He called many into full-time ministry.

How much more dramatic and impactful this moment must have been for Peter, James and John. They were ‘caught up in the presence of the LORD and they saw Moses and Elijah. These men represented the law and the prophets. Each were significant because they had given themselves fully to the plans and purposes of the LORD. These three disciples had a real mountain top experience that day and it solidified their leadership to the communication and spreading of the gospel. These common workers were taken into a special place of service for the LORD. Have you had a ‘mountain-top’ encounter with the LORD?

Dear LORD, we want to see You, high and lifted up, shining in all of Your glory. Pour out Your power oh LORD as we sing Holy, Holy, Holy. In Jesus Name, Amen