

## **Note from Pastor Steve**

I find myself in Indiana again. It was not the plan; it was not what I expected; that is the way of life. We run into things all the time that are unexpected. We can not do much to change that. Our planning and preparation might make it a little easier to endure at the start, but we will never be prepared for everything.

One thing that has come to mind being in the hospital with my father is the silence. The last few times I have been in the hospital for extended time. I would hear chimes from time to time. The chimes were played when a new baby was born. It would always bring a smile to my face knowing that in the place of pain and suffering that there was something amazing and joyous happening. The moments when your child comes into the world feels like the other times we find ourselves in a hospital. We can try to prepare for what is happening around us but it is still . So how do we deal with all this? We sometimes can make it through hard times, but other times it feels like it is too much to handle.

There is a series of stories in John 6 that have always been a great answer to me on how we deal with the hard times. Jesus found out about the death of John the Baptist and wanted to be alone. So He took his disciples across the lake to get some rest. The crowd did not let that happen. They wanted Jesus time and touch. Jesus knew that the crowd was "like sheep without a shepherd" so he had compassion on them. Then after feeding them he sent the disciples and the crowds away to go spend time alone with God. We find ourselves in hard times and like Jesus try to get away and something comes up. Jesus healed those in need in the crowd, but then they needed something else food. We like Jesus are able to meet the first need and then we feel down. But it does not end there. The next need and the next. Jesus dealt with this too. Jesus however did not give up going away to pray. Jesus changed the script knowing to get alone the disciples would have to go ahead of Him on the boat. So that is what he did. Jesus did not give up taking time to recharge and recenter. It is important for us to follow Jesus example. Remember, your not alone in dealing with hard times. It is normal to feel overwhelmed when the unexpected comes upon us. When we find ourselves in that place we to remember Jesus's response was to show compassion and not give up on finding time alone with God.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- 1 Peter 5:6-11

## The Supreme Climb

By: [Oswald Chambers](#)



**Take now your son...and offer him...  
as a burnt offering on one of the  
mountains of which I shall tell you.  
—[Genesis 22:2](#)**

A person's character determines how he interprets God's will (see [Psalm 18:25-26](#)). Abraham interpreted God's command to mean that he had to kill his son, and he could only leave this traditional belief behind through the pain of a tremendous ordeal. God could purify his faith in no other way. If we obey what God says according to our sincere belief, God will break us from those traditional beliefs that misrepresent Him. There are many such beliefs which must be removed— for example, that God removes a child because his mother loves him too much. That is the devil's lie and a travesty on the true nature of God! If the devil can hinder us from taking the supreme climb and getting rid of our wrong traditional beliefs about God, he will do so. But if we will stay true to God, God will take us through an ordeal that will serve to bring us into a better knowledge of Himself.

The great lesson to be learned from Abraham's faith in God is that he was prepared to do anything for God. He was there to obey God, no matter what contrary belief of his might be violated by his obedience. Abraham was not devoted to his own convictions or else he would have slain Isaac and said that the voice of the angel was actually the voice of the devil. That is the attitude of a fanatic. If you will remain true to God, God will lead you directly through every barrier and right into the inner chamber of the knowledge of Himself. But you must always be willing to come to the point of giving up your own convictions and traditional beliefs. Don't ask God to test you. Never declare as Peter did that you are willing to do anything, even "to go ... both to prison and to death" ([Luke 22:33](#)). Abraham did not make any such statement— he simply remained true to God, and God purified his faith.

***"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can." — John Wesley***