



A light to my path. Psalm 119:105

### **Mountaintop Experiences are Brief!**

Peter, James, and John accompanied Jesus to the top of Mt. Hermon, nine thousand two hundred feet above sea level. Suddenly, Jesus' clothes shined whiter than white, like snow. Before him appeared Elijah and Moses. Peter, always the most excited and outspoken of the disciples, declared they should build three tabernacles. God, the Father, reigned him in saying, "This is my Beloved Son! Hear him!" (Mark 9:2-7, NKJV). Nothing can bring us back to reality like God's voice. In their mental emotions, Peter, James, and John were suddenly in a valley. The mountaintop experience evaporated. Elijah and Moses were gone. Together, they were descending the mountain with a command from Jesus not to share what they saw until he was gone.

Our valleys contain the reality of natural life. Debts have to be paid. Jesus paid ours. Sickness reigns, bringing with it confusion and dismay. Jesus heals, thus casting out confusion and dismay. Relationships crumble. Jesus is the reconciler. Marriages weaken. Jesus is the bond that strengthens them.

Beloved, God wants us to have mountaintop experiences. It is in those quiet and sometimes spectacular moments he prepares us to walk through our valley. We do not walk through it alone. God is always with us (Galatians 5:16-18). Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus

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lives in us (John 15:5-7). Peter, James, and John learned they would not go to the prophets or the law. Jesus was their example. They were to build a church on him, Petra, the Rock (Matthew 16:18).  
Shalom!!

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