

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 3 No. 7 August 16, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

Prayer List

- **Ernest Peeples** - deployed in Iraq.
- **Ken Holloway's** - recovering at home from recent surgery.
- **Martha Holloway** - recurring back and heart condition.
- **Sally Harper** - visiting with family this week and will return next week.
- Please pray for *Sally's nephew* who continues to have undiagnosed problems.
- **Marie Adams** - recovering from knee surgery and awaiting hip surgery.
- **Continue to pray for Ken Holloway's** brother, Chuck.
- **Cassandra Fredrickson** will be leaving for college soon; please remember to keep her in your prayers.
- Please continue to pray for **Samantha Wilson**.

Sam and Vicki Barton's last day with us is August 26th.

Sunday Class: Studies in James.

Wednesday Class: Romans 12
We will begin Bible Character Studies in a few weeks

CLIMBING MOUNTAINS

Kent Heaton, Sr.

Life has been patterned as a journey and through our journey we pass through valleys and over hills. Sometimes the valleys are deep and sometimes the hills turn into mountains. These are the challenges of life we must all face. The hills and mountains before us seem insurmountable. We look at the top and think it is impossible to reach. The valleys grow dark and forbidding and fear follows our every step. While Satan goes about like a roaring lion to cause dread and fear, God reminds us that He will not forsake us or leave us. These times of difficulty are to bring us closer to God.

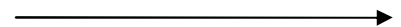
With each step we take and each day we climb, the way seems hard and the burdens great. We strain as the loads of life bear down upon us. Some paths up the mountain are more difficult than others. Disease controls our body, frailties of life oppress us, doubts and worry overshadow our lives and forces around plague us. Our footsteps seem unsure and we fear for not knowing what lies ahead.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

In the valley of shadows, we try to find our way through the ravines and chasms of tears and woe. Darkness closes around us and our hearts fill with doubt. The sounds in the valley send chills of fright through our bones and we are afraid. These are emotions born in us as we face life with its challenges and troubles. Death invades our lives, sorrow fills our cup and depression looms over our heads. Whether in the valley low or the mountain steep, a voice rings clear from the throne of God - "*The Lord is my helper; I will not fear*" (**Hebrews 13:6**).

For the child of God, climbing these mountains bring a peace that gives calm assurance to the journey. As we struggle with the difficulties of life, we know that we are drawing closer to God. Paul expressed this in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** when he talked about his thorn in the flesh. He asked the Lord three times to remove the thorn but the Lord said that His grace was sufficient. The result was that Paul used this mountain of difficulty to draw closer to God. He said, "*Therefore I take pleasure in*



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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

The LORD is my light and my
salvation;

Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength
of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

Wait on the LORD;

Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;

Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Psalm 27:1, 14

Speak, Lord, in the stillness
While I wait on Thee
Hushed my heart to listen
In expectancy

Speak, O blessed master
In this quiet hour
Let me see Thy face, Lord
Feel Thy touch of power

All to Thee is yielded
I am not my own
Blissful, glad surrender
I am Thine alone

Harold Green

[Climbing...]

infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." Paul was content in whatever state he found himself in. He did not give up nor think the way too hard - even though it was a difficult journey. His assurance came in the knowledge that as he climbed his mountain, he drew even closer to God. He understood the path through the valley was filled with fright and fear but his confidence in the power of God led him with every step. His strength came from his trials and his troubles. His power was not of his own but the power given to him by God.

Our lives are filled with many mountains and valleys. How we climb those mountains will determine our outlook in life. If we can but remember that climbing - facing the challenges of life - will bring us closer to God. It is only with the presence of God that we are able to climb. The valleys are only momentary pauses in our lives that we must pass through. The Psalmist declared the wonderful love of the Shepherd in **Psalm 23** that no harm would befall the child of God. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (**Psalm 23:4**).

Brent Hunter once said, "Even if the outlook is dark, the uplook is always bright." Whether from the mountain top or the end of the valley, our God will be with us each step of the way. With each step, we draw closer to God - with each step we draw closer to our home where "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (**Revelation 21:4**).

via **Our Hope**

GOD's graffiti by Tim Bertram



ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin