

**December 5, 2021**

## Give Me That Mountain

by Rickie Jenkins

If there ever was a Biblical hero who demonstrated courage by living what he believed, it was Caleb. Relentlessly confident, he had the uncanny ability to stay close to God and the holy nerve to approach Joshua and say “Hebron, give me this mountain” (Joshua 14:12). Giants? What giants? Caleb was ready – even at the age of 85. Although some intimidating obstacles stood in his way, his unwavering faith in God overshadowed every hindrance. Just as important, that same vigorous faith and unflinching courage can be ours today.

We need the courage to believe. Faith grows best in the dark when we have to trust rather than see. Faith is not the absence of fear, or even doubt; rather, it is stepping out in courage to live the victory that is ours in Christ.

We also need the courage to forgive. Taking an eraser to our hearts and minds is not easy. Do not bury the hatchet with the handle sticking out of the ground! Remember, forgiveness is commanded by God (Eph. 4:32). It is the one time we are allowed to engage in spiritual amnesia.

Furthermore, we need the courage to tell others about Jesus Christ. It takes courage to live the Gospel, yet the truth of God’s word changes lives for eternity. Just as Jesus never missed an opportunity to share heaven’s message of salvation, we should follow His example. When we have an opportunity to make an eternal impact on someone’s life, capture it and let God use you to bring

a soul to Him.

We need the courage to overcome. Ever feel singled out by life’s problems? The “Why Me?” syndrome is common and contagious. While we can’t divorce ourselves from life’s responsibilities, we can transfer them to God (1 Pet. 5:7). The battle belongs to Him. God specializes in overcoming the impossible.

It takes courage to climb our personal mountains, but it is not impossible. It was no accident that Caleb conquered his mountain. He spent 85 years living courageously for the Lord, and therein lies the principle for all of us — live what you believe. Have courageous faith and let it affect the way you perceive life. Let your faith in God shape the seemingly impossible obstacles that come your way. God was faithful to Caleb – and He’ll be faithful to you too. A man or woman in fellowship with God develops an uncommon vision, an unbeatable advantage, and an unquenchable spirit of courage – at any age!

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### Two Are Better Than One

By George Slover

“Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Ecclesiastes is full of wisdom that will help “life under the sun” to be more tolerable. Life in this oppressive, competitive world is full of challenges and disappointments. One soon realizes that it is not wise to try to make it through this journey alone. Thus, Solomon bluntly states that one needs a companion, one that will give us perspective and objectivity. Why are two better than one? Consider three answers to the question.

First, a companion can offer encouragement when we are weak. “For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:10) This passage always reminds me of my days in the corps at Texas A&M when our First Sergeant was determined to “make us run until we dropped.” On those occasions when a fellow classmate started to fall the rest of us would pick him up and carry him along. What a valuable lesson! I should never be shamed to refuse help when needed. I must ever be diligent to consider the needs of my fellows!

Second, a companion can offer support when we are vulnerable. “Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?” (Ecclesiastes 4:11). The thought here may represent more than a spouse keeping another warm on a wintry night. It may represent anytime we are exposed and unguarded. All are vulnerable, but “two are better than one”.

Third, a friend can provide protection when attacked. “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12) We all have a common adversary – the devil! Our adversary may be one who has manufactured vicious rumors about us. But, there is power in the unity and support that we receive from friends.

There is no promise of tomorrow and

exactly what it will bring, but chances are good that some of those days will be times of adversity. The secret to your success is having good friends.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** has improved some but still has limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments and is recovering from Covid.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

**Dinah Williams** is home but still has very limited mobility.

**Don Simmons** is home and recovering from Covid.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother)** is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**Mark Braddock** has stage 4 cancer and is not going to seek treatment.

**Jamye Wilson** had some issues last Sunday and is seeing doctors.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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