

## MOUNTAINS

This week a colleague told me that he was in the valley but wanted to be on the mountaintop. I enquired, “Which mountaintop, as this determines what valley you are in?” The Bible mentions different types of mountains, but there are two that we should be most aware of. Namely, the Mountain of the Lord, which represents provision (Genesis 22:11-14), and the mountain we speak to, which represents an insurmountable obstacle (Mark 11:23). If you find yourself in the valley of either of these mountains, realise that there are different reasons for you being there and different actions you need to take.

Let’s first examine what Abraham did when he was in the valley. God asked him to take his son Isaac and sacrifice him on a mountain still to be revealed. On the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and in the distance saw that very place. He then took Isaac up the mountain and built an altar. But before Abraham could slay his son an Angel of the Lord called from heaven and said, “*Do not lay your hand on the lad.*” Then God supernaturally provided a ram to be offered up as a burnt offering instead of Isaac. *And Abraham called the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mountain of the Lord it shall be provided”* (verse 14).

Perhaps you’re being led out of the valley and up a mountain; being asked to kill some dream, or some deep desire. You may be staring in stark disbelief at what God is asking you to do. It’s really difficult when God’s will defies logic, but that’s when our love is put to the test. God knows us well, He sees the things that grip our hearts and threaten to tear us away from His love. Like Abraham we cannot choose the method, the time, or the place. Only God knows; He must choose, and we must let Him. So when in the valley don't resist God, because before you stands the **Mountain of the Lord** and on that mountain all of your needs shall be provided!

The other mountain is the one we “speak” to. In Mark 11:23 Jesus assures us that if we command this mountain to be removed it shall happen. But there is a condition, we must not doubt but believe that those things we have commanded will be done. How is it that we have such great authority over something as gigantic as a mountain? I believe it’s because this mountain is of our own doing. There are things that we permit in our lives that eventually become major obstacles – we can’t climb over them, move around them or go through them! The only thing left is to remove them (cast them into the sea). Therefore, if you are standing in this valley, start speaking to the mountain before you. So Jesus answered and said, “*Have faith in God. For assuredly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea’, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.*”