

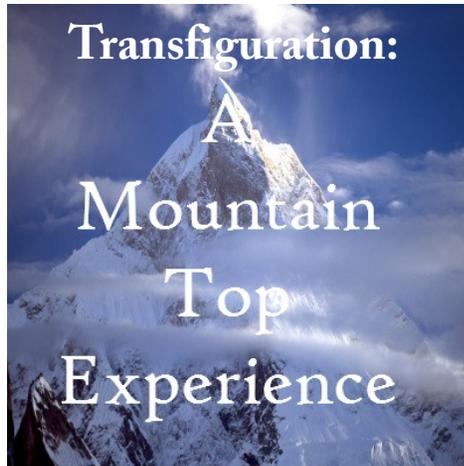
TCE daily devotions DAY TWO (Sunday)

We are transformed in the everyday things of life. If the only evidence of transformation we show is the way we act on Sunday, then we need more of Christ in our lives. What are the times when you feel the closest to God?

When I was young, a church member owned a camp in the mountains. Every so often the youth group would take off to the mountains for a weekend. These retreats were what I would eventually learn to call “mountaintop experiences,” times when I would encounter God in new, exciting, and unusual ways.

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus’ disciples have a mountaintop experience of Jesus, as he is transfigured by God before their very eyes. They hear God’s voice proclaim that they should listen to Jesus, as he is God’s Son. It’s obvious

they’ve witnessed something amazing. While the disciples don’t necessarily understand what happened, Jesus stays with them.



Read the scripture below from Mark 9:2-9.

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with

Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re here. Let’s make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn’t know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.”

Much like the disciples, we don’t always understand our mountaintop experiences, nor do we always know how to tell others about them. But the truth remains that God is present on the mountaintop and on the descent. When we heed God’s call to be ready to listen to Jesus, we realize that the mountaintop moments may stand out, but we are not alone in the valleys, either. Remember and tell about one mountaintop experience you have had where you felt God’s presence and were transformed in some way.

Did you share your experience with your parents/family when you got home? Why is it important to tell others about these transforming life-experiences?

PRAY: “With-us God,” help me to know, even if I don’t always recognize, that you are a constant in my life, whether I’ve received your word with confidence upon the mountain top, or if I’m walking through normal, day-to-day life. Amen.