



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All of us at one time or another had to face or deal with some mountains in our lives. It does not matter if you are young or old, if you are rich or poor, educated or not, all of us have had to face some monstrous obstacle in our lives.

It does not matter if you live in the Westside, Hollywood, in Kittanning, Freeport, or Ford City. It does not matter if you are single, married, widowed, or divorced. You can be saved, sanctified, and be filled with the Holy Ghost or been a Christian your whole life. Quite possibly, there may be some of you who are in the trenches at this very moment.

In other words, we are not immune or can't escape troublesome thoughts, emotions or habits in our lives that we just seem unable to overcome. But there is a sweet relief in knowing that no matter what Goliath you are facing right now, just know that they can be defeated, because God is bigger, greater and stronger than your nemesis. In other words the mountains in your life are not to control you, but by the power of God, you control the mountains; for Jesus has said in *Mark 11:22-23* "*Have faith in God, For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, 'Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.'*"

Now it must be understood that the mountain that Jesus was talking about being removed from your life, is not a physical mountain such as Pleasant View (going on route 22 east, the Rocky Mountains, or even Mount Everest, or any other physical mountains that we see in the earth. The mountains that Jesus was talking about being removed are the mountains of fear, mountains of insecurity, mountains of unforgiveness, mountains of setbacks, and so on. Believe me when I tell you that mountain staring you in the face can be dealt with in God's good timing with faith and prayer and that dear one could change the trajectory of your future.

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*Blessed is the man who remains
steadfast under trial, for when he
has stood the test he will receive
the crown of life, which God has
promised to those who love him.*

James 1:12

In other words, the mountain that Jesus Christ was talking about in this scripture is anything that stops your progress and growth in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. It means anything that stops you from coming to church, anything that stops you from joining the church, reading your Bible, anything that stops you from worshipping the Lord, anything that stops you from serving the Lord or being baptized. The things that keeps you stagnant, has you going backwards. It is anything that keeps families from having peace and love to rule and reign in their homes. It is anything that keeps husband and wives from loving each other. It is anything that keeps children from honoring and obeying their parents.

Jesus Christ says when you are facing or dealing with things that have you all messed up, first, you need to look towards heaven, pray, and have trust that God's already at work. You need to have confidence in the words of Jesus. You need to cling to, believe in and rely on God. Jesus said in John 14:1 that when we are facing life's mountains, He says to "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me." What is your mountain?

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Don Peters

{Our God}
IS ABLE
TO DO
exceeding
abundantly above
ALL THAT WE
ask OR imagine.
Ephesians 3:20

COOKING WITH PASTOR DON



Sweet-and-Sour Popcorn Chicken

Ingredients:

- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen popcorn chicken
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 medium green pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 1 can (20 ounces) unsweetened pineapple chunks
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- Hot cooked rice, optional

Optional toppings:
green onions and sesame seeds



Directions:

1. Microwave chicken according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add green pepper and onion; stir-fry until crisp-tender, 3-4 minutes. Drain pineapple, reserving the juice in a 2-cup measuring cup; set pineapple aside. Add enough water to the juice to measure 1-1/3 cups; stir in vinegar, soy sauce and ketchup.

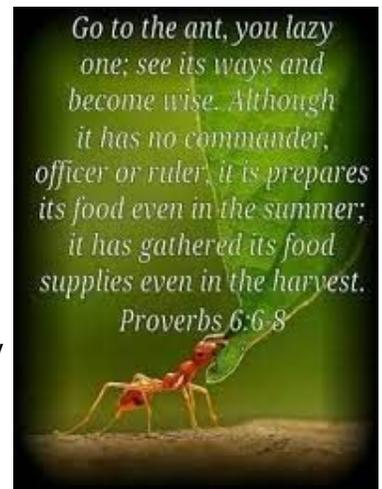
2. In a large bowl, combine brown sugar and cornstarch. Stir in pineapple juice mixture until smooth. Gradually add to the skillet. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Stir in chicken and pineapple, heat through. If desired, serve with rice and sprinkle with green onions and sesame seeds.



CONSIDER THE ANT

The writer of Proverbs counsels sluggards to consider the ant and become wise. Ants are diligent workers storing food at harvest to have vittles when groceries are scarce. This minute creature can instruct us regarding industrious labor and careful planning.

But I'd like to consider another quality of this insect. Ounce for ounce, ants are some of the strongest creatures in God's Creation. Certain species of these tiny powerlifters can carry over 5,000 times their weight! That means an average human could hoist 425 tons with ease—the equivalent of three fully loaded train cars.



This comparison helps us to comprehend the weight of Jesus' cross. Although the crossbeam didn't weigh nearly that much, the weight of the sin He carried is impossible to estimate. Imagine the total of all of your sins alone and then when you add mine, it would sink the most buoyant ship. Then add those of everyone ever born and we begin to realize the unfathomable spiritual weight Jesus bore.

How much does one lie, one foul word or one hateful attitude weigh? Once you know, multiply by the number of times you've committed each. How many pounds of pride, selfishness, lust, and greed have we amassed over our lifetimes?

After the sin bin is full of these, add all the murders, rapes, and thefts ever committed. Throw in all the wars of history along with racism, prostitution, drunkenness, and gluttony. Even if each sin weighed a fraction of an ounce, the total tonnage is staggering when all are added together for the billions who have ever lived.

Looking ahead to that day when Jesus would trudge up Golgotha's steep slope, Isaiah said, "Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed... The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:4-6) All our sins were loaded onto Jesus. Imagine the crushing force that one soul endured.

We can understand His exhaustion and fatigue when we ponder the overwhelming weight of sin that Jesus willfully carried. No wonder He sweat great drops of blood as He shouldered that burden in Gethsemane and prayed for this cup to pass. Nevertheless, not His will, but the Father's He did. The burden that was impossible for us was taken up by the One who added nothing to its weight. He had committed no offense nor contributed even a hair's heaviness, yet He bore the burden we could not and was crucified for it in our place.



As we contemplate the wondrous love demonstrated on Good Friday, let us be mindful of how much of His load we are guilty of. Let us appropriate His sacrifice for ourselves and endeavor never to add another ounce. As we consider the ants scurrying about with their burdens, let's thank and worship Jesus for bearing the infinitely heavy weight of our sin on Calvary's cross.

Submitted by George Bowers





The All Church Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15 at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!



Tuesday, April 23



The Spring Fling is scheduled for **Sunday, April 28 from 1-3 PM**, it is for everyone at the church. There will be inflatables, carnival games, face painting, crafts food and more.

Women's Fellowship—
Tuesday, April 9 at 7 PM.
Men's Fellowship -
Tuesday, April 23 at 7 PM.



The Giving Cupboard sponsored by the Witness Commission located on the porch of the Fellowship Hall. It is now available for anyone in the congregation or community who may be in need. Please share this information about the cupboard with friends and family. If you would like to donate any non-perishable items such as food items, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies etc. please leave them in the bin in the vestibule. Any monetary donations will be accepted as well.



The Men's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who helped with the All U Can Eat Breakfasts these past 3 months. We had such tremendous help, and we are so grateful that you took the time to

Starting April, we will begin a 4-week sermon series that helps us tackle fear. We will study how the Apostle Paul, Joshua, and even Jesus dealt with fear. Make plans to be here and invite your friends and family to join us.



THE Lamplighter

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