

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Hebrews 11:13 KJV



The mountaintop provides a clear view of the path to follow in the valley to reach the desired destination. The memory of the view is what guides in the valley. Mountaintops require purpose, patience, and perseverance to reach. It is an appropriate analogy of faith. To see “afar off” by faith requires diligent effort and trial.

In the valleys of trial where the distant views of heaven and eternity are obscured, Faith enables our souls to follow God’s Word and, through diligence, we can climb to the mountaintops in God’s Word to see “afar off” beyond adversity to the Celestial City and the Throne of God! Do not think for a moment faith is an easy climb! It requires purpose, patience, and perseverance only acquired through the direct tutelage and guidance of the “*Spirit of Truth*,” as we immerse our minds in His Word that He might instruct us thereby. “*Be ye transformed by the renewing of YOUR MIND, that ye may prove (know) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” God’s Word says, “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye.*” How does your eye guide someone? A curious statement unless examined. Have you ever been in a noisy crowded room and used your eyes to communicate with another? We are instinctively drawn to look in the same direction we see someone else looking, but we must be looking at them first. My friends and I exploited this. We would stand in a group and just stare at a blank spot on the ceiling. A crowd would gather and start staring not knowing why or at what they were looking. We would then shrug and walk away while many remained, still staring. It was hilarious! Gaze reveals focus and focus determines direction. God is only heard by those who diligently seek Him and His gaze!

The gaze of God will guide our soul,
To Heaven’s gates from evil’s shoals,
Diligently we must pursue,
The Word of God that guides us through! -CGP

While we may not see God’s eye, if we read and study God’s Word, we can determine God’s focus and be guided thereby. Righteousness goes against natural instincts for “*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY seek Him. Let (choice) this mind (God’s thoughts/Word) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*” It is a command, but still a personal choice to follow God. Faith is obedience and “*whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*” Those who diligently seek God, see “afar off.” Not everyone climbs mountains, but those who do see the view. Only climbers see “afar off!” The Apostle Paul wrote:

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14 KJV