Mountain climbing can teach us many discipleship principles. Our Christian walk is not just a short distance sprint; it is a long distance marathon—a mountain marathon. There are steep ascents, inevitable descents, but we must stick to the path, follow the guide, take regular compass (conscience) readings, consult the map (God’s Word) and constantly re-evaluate our position and our progress, persevering to the end. »

—by Peter Hammond
Climbing mountains
The high points of our Great Commission courses are the mountain hikes which we undertake at all times of day and night and in all weather conditions. One of our principles is to never cancel a hike (or an outreach) because of adverse weather conditions. Of course, it is easier to climb in good weather, in pleasant temperature and with perfect visibility. However, when we

climb mountains, we need to be willing to climb in fog and mist, rain and storms. Of course, it is easier to climb in good weather, in pleasant temperature and with perfect visibility. However, when we need to understand the times and circumstances. We need to carry enough food, water and First Aid supplies for our needs. Mountain climbers also need flashlights. God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The Mountains of God recorded in the Bible point us to many high points in God’s providential history and provide us with vital insights to a dynamic discipleship walk with the Lord.

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Mount Ararat
The mountains of Ararat (Gen 8:4) remind us that God is a just and Holy God. He hates evil and He judges wickedness. However, He graciously provides salvation for His people. The ark that God commanded Noah to build is symbolic of the salvation we can enjoy in Christ. However, we need to note that there was only one ark and only one door to the ark. Jesus Christ is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). We should also notice that, just as God did not save Noah from the Flood, but protected him in the Flood, God does not save us from all our troubles, but He saves us through them. After a tumultuous year, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Immediately God provided work for Noah and his family. He gave them principles for government and a promise. Every time we see a rainbow, we are reminded of God’s Covenant with Noah and his descendants.

Mount Moriah
Mount Moriah (Gen 22:2) reminds us of the sacrifice that Abraham was called to make. Abraham was commanded to offer his own son to the Lord. Abraham and Sarah had miraculously conceived Isaac way past childbearing age. God had promised that all the families of the nations would be blessed through his descendants, who would be as numerous as the stars of the sky and as the sand of the seashore. Now he was commanded to sacrifice his only son!

Yet Abraham loved God so much that he was willing to do this. He trusted God so implicitly that he immediately obeyed the Word of God. Mount Moriah reminds us that we may not always understand God’s Will, but we can trust it and we must obey it. As Abraham so prophetically said on Mount Moriah: “God Himself will provide a Lamb.” And God did provide for Isaac then, and He has provided for us in and through, our Lord Jesus Christ who is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” John 1:29. God expects full surrender and unquestioning obedience.

Mount Horeb
Mount Horeb (Exod 3:1-2) reminds us of the life-changing encounter Moses had with Jehovah God at the Burning Bush. Through the ingenuity and courage of his mother, Moses had survived Pharaoh’s death sentence against all the male Hebrew infants. Adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh, raised in privilege, the throne of Egypt was not beyond his reach. Yet Moses rejected the riches and pleasures of Egypt and chose rather to suffer with the people of God. In exile he saw the Burning Bush. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is Holy ground…” Exodus 3:5-14. God hears the prayers of His people. God sees their distress.

He called, equipped and empowered Moses to command Pharaoh to let His people go. Here on Mount Horeb we see that God calls and He sends. We are called to service and we are saved to serve. We are called to service and we are saved to serve.
Mount Sinai
At Mount Sinai (Exod 19:11-23) we see that God is Holy. God’s people are called to be consecrated, set apart, to proclaim His Word to all nations.

Mountains of Ebal and Gerizim
The Lord commanded the children of Israel: “... proclaim on Mount Ebal the blessings, and on Mount Gerizim the curses.” (Deut 11:26-29). The curses of disobeying the Law of God were proclaimed on Mount Ebal (Deut 27:14-26). The blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience are fully listed in Deuteronomy 28. The mountains of Ebal and Gerizim remind us of the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience.

Mount Carmel
Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:19) reminds us of the Prophet Elijah’s courageous confrontation of the evil false prophets of Baal. Elijah challenged them to a contest before the whole nation of Israel. They would each build an altar, and pray to their god, and the god who answered with fire would be recognized as the true God. The 480 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah called upon Baal from morning until noon, shouting and dancing and cutting themselves with knives until their blood flowed. Yet, despite their frantic prophesying, there was no response, no one answered and no one paid attention.

Mount Hermon
Mount Hermon (Mark 9:2) reminds us of the transfiguration of Christ. The Lord Jesus had taken Peter, James and John with Him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There He was transfigured before them.

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Mount of Olives

Lastly, we must look at Mount Olivet (Acts 1:12) from where our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven. Before ascending, He gave the Great Commission which is to be our supreme ambition. Henceforth His last command must be our first concern - to make disciples, to teach obedience to all things whatsoever He has commanded us. Here on Mount Olivet we see the fulfilment and completion of our Lord Jesus’ first mission on earth. However, we are assured that He will return again in Judgement, as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, to judge the living and the dead.

How are you doing on this mountain marathon in your adventure of discipleship? Are you sticking to God’s path, following His Holy Spirit, listening never giving up! Persevere and endure across all the mountain tops over which God will lead you. “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring Good News, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation…your God reigns!” Isa 52:7.

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