

# "THE BUMPS ARE WHAT YOU CLIMB ON"

JAMES 1:2-4; I PET. 1:5-7

**Jas. 1:2-4** *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying you your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing".*

**I Peter 5:6-7** *"Wherein in ye greatly rejoice, though now **for a season, if need be**, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

A. Careful reading of the text reveals that both James and Peter echo the same attitude toward temptation and trials, AND their benefit in the believer's life, for the present and the future.

1. Could it be they had discovered that "THE BUMPS ARE WHAT YOU CLIMB ON"? **Let me explain with the following story:**

A young boy had talked his little sister into climbing up a mountain that was near their home. In an effort to convince her that she could do it with him, he told her that there was even a path to follow. Finally he succeeded!

As he was leading her up the mountain path, **one that she found was not too easy to climb**, she complained, *"Why, this isn't a path at all, it's all rocky and bumpy!"* Her brother replied, "Sure, but **the bumps are what you climb on.**"

2. When we think about it, his was a remarkable piece of philosophy. **What do you do with the bumps on the path of life.** **Give Title of Message**

B. Read any successful person's biography and you will find there is not one whose life was free from problems and difficulties.

1. While looking at their life from a distance, you might think they had it made and that life was easy for them.

a. **But when you get closer**, you discover that their climb to the top was not an easy one.

b. Their life or path was rocky and bumpy, but **the bumps were what they climbed on to get to the top!**

2. One doesn't have to read far in the Bible before discovering this truth.

3. Let's look at a few of those considered by most OF US to have made it to the top of the spiritual mountain.

## **I. ABRAHAM'S CLIMB TO THE TOP.**

A. Abraham didn't become a great man of faith overnight. He was required to go

through some difficult tests on the path of life before reaching the top of the mountain.  
**Five bumps in his life are:**

1. No sooner did he arrive in Canaan than a famine came to the land. Imagine facing a famine in the land God has promised you!

2. Afterwards he had problems with his nephew, Lot, and his herds-men, and in the end **wound up giving Lot the most fertile and productive land, EVEN THOUGH** the Lord had promised it to Abraham personally.

3. Then came war to the land, and Abraham had to go out and fight to protect what God had promised him.

4. Sarah, his wife, later led him astray with bad counsel and the result was the birth of Ishmael, a son who brought sorrow to his heart and home.

5. Finally, Isaac, the promised son, was born, bringing great joy to Abraham and Sarah. **But then**, God asked Abraham to offer Isaac on the altar for a sacrifice, a task that would be difficult for any father or mother.

B. Yes, there were many bumps in Abraham's life, but he used them to climb higher!!

## II. JOSEPH'S CLIMB TO THE TOP INCLUDED SEVEN BUMPS.

A. If anybody had a rocky road, Joseph certainly did.

1. **He was <sup>1</sup>pampered by his father!?** <sup>2</sup>Hated by his brothers. <sup>3</sup>Sold for a slave, <sup>4</sup>falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, <sup>5</sup>thrown into prison, <sup>6</sup>forgotten by Pharaoh's servants, and <sup>7</sup>apparently forsaken for two years.

2. **BUT**, the bumps on the path of life helped him to climb higher, and one day Joseph became second in command of all Egypt.

a. He went from the prison to the palace. Where is God trying to take you??

B. Others to climb on bumps included: Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, and many others.

1. They were apparently people who did not complain about the road; but accepted the difficulties of life and used them as stepping stones to the top of the spiritual mountain, as well as the mountain of success in life

C. I may not know what difficulties you are going through just now, **BUT**, I know some of the feelings you are experiencing.

1. **How?** Because I have been on this bumpy road myself. I like you have:

2. Felt like quitting, like giving up.

3. I've had difficulty understanding why the road doesn't get easier, **why God doesn't remove the stones and straighten the path. GUESS WHAT??**

4. If God did remove the stones and straighten the path we might never go any higher nor get to the top, because the bumps are what we climb on!

5. They're just another opportunity to prove to the world and to Satan that God knows best and that His Grace is sufficient.

## III. IN PSALMS 91, DAVID MAGNIFIES THE CARE THAT GOD EXERCISES OVER HIS CHILDREN. In it David begins by saying:

**Ps. 91:1** *"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

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