

Summit to Summit

Shauna Amick, M.Ed. *Watermark Ministries

*In the future, when people ask you, "What do these stones mean?"
tell them... These stones are to be a memorial forever.*

Joshua 4:6,7

Please read Joshua 4:1-7. This passage describes the first of seven times that the Lord prompted Joshua and his community to create a stone monument. Reread the beginning of verse 6. What purpose did these stone monuments serve? _____

Stone monuments served as signs to those on pilgrimage as well as to future generations. Read Joshua 4:24 and note the two reasons why God wanted those stones erected: _____

God wants us to remember these truths, as well. The hand of the Lord is all-powerful, and we'd be wise to revere Him at all times. In fact, the mile markers we find on our own journeys, be they small stones or entire mountain ranges, can be just what it takes to remind us of God's ability to bring us through the tough times and keep us on the right road with Christ.

Look back at the course of your story. On the timeline below, identify a few of the mountains that you've had to climb over the years. They may have been mountains of celebration like the birth of a child, or mountains of disappointment like the death of a dream. For now, just identify some of the major transformations you've gone through by recording them as mile markers on your timeline.

birth

today

Circle one of the experiences that you plotted on your timeline. What was it about that event that causes you to view it as having such a large impact on who you are today? _____

Has the experience brought you *closer to* or *further away from* God? Why?

Take some time in prayer before moving on. Ask God to shift your understanding of what happened surrounding the experience you've described. Allow Him to search your heart as only He can and expect Him to show you the outcome He wants you to arrive at on this journey to His heart.

Perhaps your story echoes that of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Joseph – sold into slavery by his brothers, imprisoned under false accusations, and forgotten for years – chose to see God's hand on his circumstances at all times. Read his words in Genesis 50:20 and record them here:

Joseph saw his mountains as stepping stones that brought him closer to fulfilling God's purpose for his life. How could Jesus use your past or current situation to accomplish His unique purpose for you? _____

Please understand this, Jesus doesn't *just* want us to be survivors. He wants us to live victoriously as overcomers. He came to give us life to the full (John 10:10), to make us more than conquerors (Romans 8:37), to repay us for the years the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25) and reveal His glory through the details of our lives; even through our suffering (Romans 8:18).

How can our suffering bring Christ glory? By seeing it first through His lens and by then allowing Him to use it to impact others. How can we see things from God's point of view, according to Romans 12:2? _____

When we choose to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ, we will be able to test and approve God's will for our lives. His will empowers us to reach our next summit and includes helping those around us to reach their mountain peaks, as well. How is this confirmed through 2Corinthians 1:3-7? _____

Our sufferings invite God's comfort, which overflows as hope if we allow it. God's plan was never to harm us, but to take the mountains that tried to trip us up and turn them into table tops for us to dance on. Read His promise in Jeremiah 29:11, then call upon Him; pray to Him and He will listen to you. Seek Him as you climb your mountains. Not only is He waiting for you at the summit – He's right by your side as you take your next faith-filled step.
