



SURRENDER

The Path is Filled with Change, Pain, and Struggle

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less (John 3:30).

Christian mystics give themselves up to the ways of God. They are willing to climb the spiritual mountain to participate in what's behind the Gate of Supreme Sacrifice. The path is filled with change, pain, and struggle. At a critical juncture they pivot, giving up free will. Look, discern, and listen for God wherever He may be found.

As the familiar recedes, the Christian mystic enters a realm of profound darkness and doubt. Although going uphill seems manageable at first, uncertainty creeps in about reaching the summit. However, with God's help, the journey is possible. The incompleteness and desires were intentionally designed to point back to Him. Surrendering to God is necessary to unite the heart with His. It's time to climb towards a new life and leave the past behind.

Quit playing games. Give up personal power and surrender control to Him. Permit The Lord to move within the innermost depths of the heart.

Don't ponder past experiences. Look upward. Climb higher. The base of the mountain can no longer be seen. There is no turning back. One is constantly adjusting to the unfamiliar path.

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Just as a family that moves to a new city, a new job, or a new house usually discovers that each member relates differently to each other. The same holds true for our connection with God.

The unforgiving mountain helps a person discover where, when, and how The Lord is present NOW. Without the hand of God, ascending the mountain would be impossible.

The unfolding continues in Chapter 11 of The Life of a Christian Mystic by Russell D. Ward