



A Journey of a Thousand Miles Sunday June 05, 2011

We've all heard the quote "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

All of us in life are on a journey. We're in transition, going from where we were to a destination we hope to reach.

The Christian life is also considered a journey.

1 Peter 2:11 call us 'strangers (aliens) and pilgrims'.

As strangers we are passing through foreign land. It is not a place where we are to take residence. As pilgrims we are journeying to a place.

Our Salvation

Romans 5:8-9

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Our Destination

Romans 8:28,29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

Our Journey

Our walk with God through life in this world sometimes seems like a journey of a thousand miles.

A journey of a thousand miles is carried out one step at a time, some steps are easy to take, some steps are difficult and yet these move us closer to the Lord.

Some steps are dangerous and lead us astray and we need to retrace our steps.

Our journey takes us through various seasons of life. And sometimes just a small step ushers us into a new season of life.

So let's talk about the Christian's journey of a thousand miles.



Some of the names of places that we will be using have been adapted from John Bunyan's Classic, "The Pilgrims Progress" written back in 1678 (Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pilgrim's_Progress)

Begins by Faith

Our journey of a thousand miles begins by faith and is continued by **faith**.
This is a journey of faith – and faith in God is what will keep us going. Faith in God is the gasoline.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Hills, Valleys, Mountains, Meadows and Plains

Our journey of a thousand miles takes us through hills, valleys, meadows, plains, and mountains. We go through various seasons, face various enemies of our soul.

It is good for us to be well prepared for this journey, because we never know when we would face a certain situations.

Hills

Hill Difficulty

both the hill and the road up is called "Difficulty"; it is flanked by two treacherous byways "Danger" and "Destruction."

Talk about facing difficulties and challenges in life

Hill Lucre

Talk about overcoming the pull of desire for riches, success, selfish ambitions

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Mark 4:18,19

**18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,
19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

Valleys

Valley of Humiliation

1 Peter 5:5,6

**5 ... be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."
6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,**

Valley of the Shadow of Death

Suffering

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

In every dark night God is faithful to send a star to light up your world.
That star could be just one person who is there for you to cheer you on.



In every valley, you will find that God has a lily in the valley - someone or something that inspires you to a vision of better things than the present situation.

The Delectable Mountains

Every now and then we have our mountain top experiences in our journey with God. These are high points in our lives that God graciously grants to us.

Other dangerous places that we must beware of on our journey:

Plain Ease and By-Path Meadow

a pleasant area traversed by the pilgrims.

By-Path Meadow, the place leading to the grounds of Doubting Castle.

There are seasons in life when everything seems to be going so well – we are going through the pleasant plains and meadows of life. Thank God for such seasons. They bring us much needed rest and refreshing.

And yet we need to use such seasons wisely.

We must use these seasons to consolidate and strengthen all that God has done in our lives. We must use such seasons to equip ourselves and go to new level in our walk with God – since we have no idea what will be required of us during the remainder of our journey of a thousand miles.

Unfortunately, sometimes we do the opposite when travelling through the plains and meadows. We tend to take it easy, let our guard down, become slack on our defenses, perhaps even neglect the basic disciplines to maintain spiritual strength and if we are not careful, we find ourselves in Doubting Castle meeting with the giant despair.

Doubting Castle and The Giant Despair

Doubting Castle, the home of Giant Despair; only one key could open its doors and gates, the key Promise

To get out of this castle we will need to engage in spiritual battle in our mind.

Using the weapons of our warfare, casting down every thought of doubt and despair with the promises of God we must walk out free (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Vanity Fair and Enchanted Ground

The (dangerous) Enchanted Ground, an area through which the King's Highway passes that has air that makes pilgrims want to stop to sleep. If one goes to sleep in this place, one never wakes up.

It is a place of spiritual compromise, complacency, and lethargy. It is a place of spiritual luke-warmness. We are there and we don't even know we are in that place.

It is a place where if we are not careful, we are captivated by the pull of this world, the attractions of this world, numb our sensitivity to the Spirit of God. The reasonings of this world cause us to compromise on the absolutes of God's Word.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."



Colossians 3:1-3

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Seasons Change

Our journey takes us through various seasons of life. And sometimes just one small step ushers us into a new season of life.

Psalm 31:15 My times are in Your hand;

This morning – there are many of us who need to take a small step – and we will see the entire season of life change.

Psalm 32:8,9

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

Do not refuse that one small step God is calling you take. Do not let stubbornness or a desire to have your own way hold you back.

This morning – there are many of us who need to take a small step – and we will see the entire season of life change.

Altar call/Invitation

Sing 'It's a New Season'



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>