



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

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The road in front of us can often become foggy and disorienting, causing us to give way to hopelessness and despair. It is times like these that we are often presented with the choice to either turnaround and go back to comfort and safety, linger in a state of loss and hesitation, or press on to discover what lies beyond the fog.

One thing I have learned is that new discoveries and new horizons only come by relentless pursuit, a concept that is both exhilarating and intimidating, as it has no room for laziness and requires constant self-denial.

There will be times when you feel fear. You will have questions. You will have doubts. But life will not hand you a silver platter with all your answers neatly arranged on it. So likewise, your faith will never grow unless you put your hand to the plow and put in the effort. God will meet us in our distresses, but we must always do our part to draw near to Him and He will also draw near to us. He will always guide our paths, but we must learn to take steps.

We are each created with unique talents and abilities with a purpose to glorify Him, and the only way to discover that purpose is to relentlessly pursue the One who breathed in us the breath of life.

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This little book is neither groundbreaking insights nor lengthy rambles about the complexities of life. It is intended to be a simple collection of photographs, scriptures, and inspirational thoughts, and quotes that I feel appropriately apply to the photos on display.

The making of this book has taken nothing short of literal blood, sweat, and tears and even jail time as I have hiked to remote and undisclosed locations, wrestled in my faith, and learned difficult life lessons.

My hope is that this will inspire you on your own journey of faith, to not give up when things are down, and to have the courage to push your limits as you seek to find and tell your own unique story.

34°43'36"N 83°43'30"W

"But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
– Romans 5:8 AMP

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It's a familiar verse for some, but, for me, how it is worded casts a new light on the truth it reveals. Specifically, the word prove is what stands out. Often, when I find myself in life's trying times, it is difficult to make sense of all God's promises when measured against what I see in the physical world and real-life circumstances. I often become frustrated and come to God saying, "prove it!"

...to which, I am reminded that He has nothing left to prove to us. He has already clearly PROVEN His love and faithfulness to us on the cross. While I think it is good to ask God questions and to struggle and grow in faith, it is often easy to fall into the mindset of thinking that he owes us something.

He owes us nothing. We owe Him everything.

In truth, we are here for Him, not the other way around. Perhaps, rather than starting each day with a mindset of asking God to help us get through our day, would it not be better to begin each day with a heart that says,

"Lord, how can I serve you today?"

He is near for our good, but we are ultimately here for His glory. We sometimes feel entitled to receive His gifts and we often look for the fulfillment of His promises in our lives but when all other promises tarry and seem distant, there is still one that remains ever near and ever constant.

There is no promise more precious than the gospel itself





18°33'12"N 98°28'44"E

A Prayer for Deliverance

Heavenly Father
Beautiful Savior
I look to You now
My redeemer

Come and save me
From the river
And give me a new hope
That only You can

You're all I have
You're all I need
You came in pow'r
You gave Your all

And now I see
You're everything
Lord Jesus come
Deliver me

And give me grace
To give my all
And all will see
That You are Lord

33°45'30"N 84°23'16"W

A Hymn of Faith

Though the fig tree bears no fruit and the
grape vines produce no grapes

Though the olive crop fails and the fields
produce no food

Though there are no sheep in the pen and
no cattle in the stalls

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in
God my Savior.

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes
my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me
to tread on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 | Job 13:15

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The true test of faith comes when life
appears fruitless in the areas where we most
want to bear fruit.

It is in this wilderness, of sorts, that we are
tested to see if we are founded
on rock or on sand.



46°55'30"N 121°40'29"W

"God's training is for now, not later. His purpose is for this very minute, not for sometime in the future. We have nothing to do with what will follow our obedience, and we are wrong to concern ourselves with it. What people call preparation, God sees as the goal itself."
– Oswald Chambers

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We must learn to be more present in the here and now, and remember that the process is not a thing to blindly get through as fast as possible and forget, but rather something to embrace and take moment by moment in total dependence on the one who leads.





35°25'59"N 82°15'34"W

God's timing is often not our own and, many times,
He chooses not to give us what we first want when we want it.

Sometimes, He withholds simply because He knows that what we want will not be good for us, and just as a father knows what is best for his children so the LORD knows what is best for those who fear Him. Other times, He withholds because if we will only wait for just a little while He will give us something far greater than we could have thought or imagined.

This wintry photo is a standing testament to that truth.
Had I captured the photo that I thought I wanted upon my first visit, I would have never returned to this place to witness this moment of a snow-covered landscape draped in drifting fog.

Upon my first attempt to capture the falls, the adverse weather conditions made it impossible for me to catch even a short glimpse of the landscape. I came away that day feeling beaten and discouraged without a single image of the falls on my camera.

But the story didn't end there.

Due to my lack of success on my previous visit, I decided to give it another try. Little did I know what God had prepared for me. I knew there was a chance of flurries and possibly light snow during the night but when I awoke that morning and stepped outside, heaps of freshly fallen snow had covered everything around me.

I was ecstatic.

I had hoped for a view of the falls under a moody sky but I never imagined capturing these conditions, especially at this location. I went a short distance to my planned vantage point and there lay the falls, nestled away in the corner of the forest atop the snow-covered cliffs. The fog ever so elegantly framed and reframed the scene as the falls drifted in and out of view.

Had I been allowed to capture the photo I thought I wanted on my first attempt, I would have never returned to witness this rare moment for this location.

Wait on the LORD. Trust Him.
He knows best and His timing is perfect.