

## YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH

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**Deuteronomy 1:6-8**

You have been around this mountain long enough. Sometimes you can stay too long. Sometimes you can wait too long. Sometimes you can procrastinate too long. Sometimes you can put off doing what you are supposed to do too long. Sometimes you can ignore a situation too long. Sometimes you can hold a grudge too long. Sometimes you can pretend not to see what you know you see too long. Sometimes you can stay stuck too long. Sometimes you can wait and life gives you a window. God is good but He gives you a window that will eventually close. The Bible says for everything there is a season. Seasons do come back around. God will give you another chance but it may be years before that chance comes again. You can stay in a house too long because you don't want to move. You can stay on a job too long. You better go when it is time to go. You better move when it is time to move. Moses said that you have been around this mountain too long.

In the text, Moses recognized that his season for leading his people was coming to an end. In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses was preaching farewell sermons to remind and summarize his previous teachings. He told the people to remember that God has brought them from a mighty long way. When you get stuck it is hard for you to remember. You have to remember that if the Lord did it for you back then He can do it now. Sometimes the worst thing about your achievement is that you think that this is as good as it gets. You think because God blessed you that it cannot get any better. We get satisfied too soon. Before you get content in where you are and make excuses for why you can't move, you need to remember what God has already done for you. Remember if God made a way for you then, God will make a way for you now. Don't worry about how He is going to do it, just trust God.

You never thought that you would get what you have now. Remember that God has already brought you from a mighty long way. In the text, the journey took 40 years because the people were whining and complaining. Do you know that whining and complaining zaps you of energy? That energy could be used to get up and keep moving. Sometimes you have to press forward regardless. When your disappointment becomes your dwelling place, your heartache becomes your home, your setback becomes your excuse, your detour becomes your destiny, and your place of rest to take a break becomes your permanent dwelling place, you have been around that mountain too long. There comes a point where you need to lift up your head, stop complaining, and trust God. For instance, a woman will blame her weight gain on having a baby but the baby is 21 years old. That excuse is old now. She has been around that mountain too long.

Your fortune is in the hand of God. He has the whole world in His hands. You can always make excuses. Can you name your own mountain? Your mountain is the thing you keep circling around and coming back to. Moses told the people that their disobedience had held them back but God had still been merciful towards them. Even in your mess God can still be good to you. You are comfortable but you are lost. You are safe but you are not at home. We belong at the Promise Land not at Mount Horeb. We have faith but we have no dirt

to call our own. You can have a Mercedes but you don't own anything. In a man's world you don't have to have money but you have to have a title to something. The man loans you money because you have a title. You should be the lender not the borrower. We have witnessed God's goodness but we don't have His favor because we have become comfortable in the wrong place. That's why we don't want to leave our old jobs. We are used to those demons. If you can do it in your sleep, then you have been around that mountain long enough. You are not growing. The God we serve is always calling us to stretch and grow; to go to a higher level.

Many of us have grown comfortable in the wilderness. How do you know that you are not in the Promise Land? You know when everything there is a stronghold. When you are in God's preferred place, it hurts but it feels good at the same time. When the Lord sets you free, you better run from Egypt quickly. When God opens that window for you again, you better run. Some of us have to be kicked out of Egypt. God had to fire some of us from our old jobs so that He could get us to move on. Sometimes, "Bubba" has to break up with us so that we can move on to where God wants us to be. **Your mountain is your training place.** You need that place to get you to another place. It is a place of preparation but not your destiny. You have to be the best where you are before you can move on. Remember the game of Connect the Dots? In Connect the Dots, you cannot skip numbers. When you are done, you can step back and see the purpose of each number. Your mountains are the same as those numbers. You have to climb one before you get to another. You don't understand why you are going through what you are going through but you have to trust God. Later on you will look back and understand the purposes of those mountains.

Even though you cannot quite make out what the future holds, if you stay where you are you will emotionally die. It is time to get up from where you are and press your way towards the Promise Land. When you stay too long, something inside you begins to die. You start putting up with what you should not allow. Wrong becomes right. You start making excuses. Timing makes all the difference. The Lord said get up and go north. You have to get up and go somewhere where you can see further. There comes a time where you know that it is time for you go to where God wants you to go. You have to be where God is passing out blessings. God wants you to be where you are supposed to be. When the quarterback throws the ball to the receiver he doesn't throw it to where the receiver is at the current moment but where he is supposed to be. When God throws the ball He is going to throw it where you are supposed to be. God wants you to be in place when He gives you marching orders.

Peace.

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