



"Now What?"

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

In the 1980s, my friend Tim and I spent weekends chasing summits in New York's Adirondack Mountains. The Adirondacks have 46 "High Peaks," and anyone who climbs them all earns the title of "46er."

Most of the peaks stand between 4,000 and 5,400 feet—not towering by western standards—but don't let the elevations fool you. These mountains are rugged. The trails climb steeply over slick roots and endless rocks. Reaching the summit was never easy, which made it rewarding.

We usually tackled two or three peaks each trip. We'd celebrate on the summit with a high five, enjoy dinner afterward, and then ask the same question:

"Now what?"

Sure, we could have revisited favorite summits, but the adventure wasn't in retracing yesterday's trail. It was found in the pursuit—Tim and I pursuing it together—not the summit itself. We loved the view, but we knew the summit was no place to settle.

Life's like this.

Perhaps you've experienced some success. You've "reached a peak," so to speak. You could stay there, reveling in the view, but before long adventure's reward begins to fade. Like someone who's climbed a mountain, you begin asking, **"Now what?"**

Some dismiss this question as selfish ambition. Sometimes they're right.

Others silence it.

"Life is good. I love the view from up here!"

Unaware that comfort has placed faith-killing golden handcuffs on them.

We're prone to ask, "What's best for me?" aren't we?

But could your "**Now what?**" be coming from God?

Throughout Scripture, God continually moves his people forward. He calls Abraham to leave home without clear instructions. He sends Joshua into a Promised Land full of giants. He commissions the disciples to make disciples of all nations in the face of adversity.

"And it is impossible to please God without faith." (Hebrews 11:6)

God invites his followers into a lifetime of faith-filled adventure. Obedience pleases him—and on the climb our Intimacy with him and trust in his promises deepens.

Faith doesn't merely take us up mountains.

Faith refuses to build a house on the summit.

Reflect: Have I been resting too long atop a peak?

Consider Moses.

For forty years he tended sheep in the wilderness after fleeing Egypt. Then one day God interrupted his comfortable life with a burning bush.

Whether God had prompted Moses with, "**Now what?**" we don't know. But we do know he was painfully aware of his people's suffering and carried the memory of his failed attempt to save them. God called him out of hiding into the assignment he had been preparing him for all along.

Everything changed when Moses stepped toward the bush.

His greatest adventure with God began with this step of faith. (I call this a "Jump." From this point there was no turning back.)

The same is true for us.

There are seasons when God calls us to rest. But he never intends for us to spend our lives comfortably atop yesterday's peak.

If you're a follower of Christ, your adventure is found in the pursuit—our "race"—a lifetime of obedient Jumps. We're called to run it, not watch it from the sidelines.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith..."
(Hebrews 12:1–2)

Is the Lord prompting you with, "**Now what?**" Obediently prepare to jump.

*Consider: **The heaviest weights to strip off are often the “best” things about my current peak.***

Ask, "Lord, what must I let go of to run my race?"

Be assured: he may require you to release something you dearly love. Whether physical or emotional, it may be one of the most beautiful parts of your current mountaintop.

His response will make you uncomfortable.

But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled." (Exodus 4:10)

Moses feared inadequacy. Had he already forgotten the burning bush? Liberating Israel was never about Moses' ability. That was the work of the great "I AM."

He simply needed to obey and go.

Isn't that our struggle too? We act as though the next peak depends on us. Have we forgotten who carried us up this one?

Your adventure isn't about you.

It's about who you're with.

Obey. Trust him. Go.

Imagine: **My next peak will glorify Jesus.**

What Jump is the Lord calling you to make?

Have you been lingering on an old summit because the next climb feels uncertain? Afraid you'll be exposed? Afraid the outcome depends on you?

It doesn't.

This next peak isn't about you.

It's about glorifying Jesus.

Keep your eyes on him.

Because the adventure of your life isn't found in reaching summits.

It's running with Jesus.

So when he asks, "**Now what?**"...

Make the Jump.

Get off the grid and ask these questions

Coach's Questions:

- **Reflect:** *Have I become a bystander—resting atop my last peak?*
- **Ask:** *Have I been resisting God's "**Now what?**" What Jump is he asking me to make? What excuse am I hiding behind? What promise of his am I failing to trust?*
- **Challenge:** Make the hard choices and prepare to make the Jump.
- Further insights: [The Spiritual S](#); [Upend Your Urgency](#)
- Don't know my Mission—[Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

My adventure: Not valleys. Not peaks. Run with Jesus.

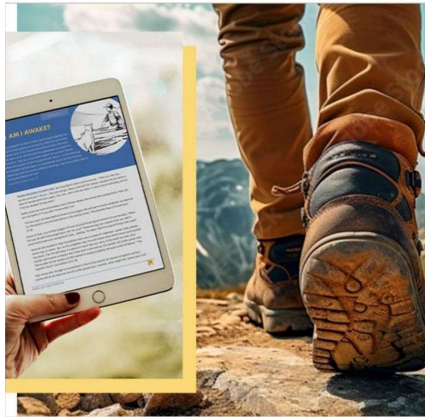
*Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us,
don't make us leave this place."*

Exodus 33:15 (NLT)

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