

## Facing the Mountain

By Kimberly Sowell

*But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered awhile, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. (1 Peter 5:10 NKJV)*

As we pursue God's will for our lives, the journey could be compared to climbing a steep mountain. When we reach a stretch of difficulty in the journey, we are challenged by our inability to see what lies ahead; we are face to face with the mountain, and all we can see before our eyes is rock, rock, rock. We do not dare to look below from where we have ascended, or we may be paralyzed by fear and anxiety. So we trudge on, clawing inch by inch, and the scenery does not change for what seems to be miles. We occasionally occupy our minds by dwelling on the destination of this climb, and other times we cannot think past the pain in our joints and the intense grip we have on the mountain, trying to hold on, trying not to fall, trying to be certain the struggle of the climb does not end in vain. And when we finally reach the top of that rugged, steep mountain, we take the final step onto sure footing, praising the Maker of that solid rock. We breathe in the fresh air found only at such an exhilarating height, and we feel settled in our spirits. Yes, the journey brought strength to our souls. We gaze in wonder at the spectacular view before us, a panoramic view of God's will. We rejoice as we feel the warm sunshine on our faces and we know the journey was surely worth the struggle. Then we look before us and realize we cannot tarry on this mountaintop for long, for there are mountains yet to be climbed.

*Dear Lord, grant me patience as I climb these mountains you've set before me, pursuing your will for my life. Thank you for your promise to never leave me or forsake me. Teach me perseverance, and may I trust you not only for the final destination of where you are taking me, but also for the journey to get there. Amen.*