

MOUNTAIN MOVERS



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DEDICATED
To our children and grandchildren

INTRODUCTION

**“Righteousness [moral and spiritual integrity and virtuous character] exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”
(Proverbs 14:34 AMP)**

I’ve never considered myself an exceptionally patriotic person. I was glad to be born in the United States and never wished I’d grown up elsewhere, but I wasn’t interested in being that flag-waving, crazy patriotic lady who cries during the National Anthem. I was pretty content with knowing our country’s founding principles and history and believing they were the best options in the world.

However, in recent years I realized that ideas that I had assumed were shared and valued by the vast majority of United States citizens were not. And, these ideas are the bedrock of a stable society. I have watched the US (and other nations) struggle through the last how-many-ever years as she sought to find bearings in a world that was quickly changing. It seems she - and, by extension, we her people - have seemingly lost the undergirding structures that kept the nation (mostly) stable during her history. When the fabric of society is being ripped apart, one has to ask toward what it is we are progressing - total anarchy and evil?

I do not believe that God wants us to live in a world of chaos or evil. This chaos is from the enemy of our souls who does not even deserve to be named. The chaos in our nation is not what God intended. Our nation was mostly settled and then birthed by people and ideas from a Judeo-Christian worldview. That worldview is now in competition with others that are markedly different. But I do believe God has a plan for our nation that goes far beyond politics and political identities. The Bible tells us that God’s plans are for his Righteousness to be in our nation, for true and godly Justice to abound, and for the Love and Light of Christ to be in every aspect of our society.

But, how do we get there? That seems like such a radical difference from our nation’s reality right now - it seems almost impossible to achieve. But we serve a radical God who gives us tools to make that change. We are called to pray, research, and influence our culture. You and I may never be president or governor or hold the role

of some other influential person. But our actions make a difference - they influence this nation. Our research into the world around us makes a difference. Our prayers matter.

Sometimes we can look at the world around us and feel so overwhelmed; where can we start to pray? *Anywhere*. Will it do any good? *Absolutely*. Is it too late? *Nope*. God's timing is perfect and he hears the prayers we give him. And he guides us in those prayers. It's not an accident you've come across a copy of this book. God needs you - your nation (whether the United States or elsewhere) needs you - to pray consistently, intentionally, and strategically in this day and hour. Hopefully, this book gives you tools to do just that.

Don't read this book just for the information. Read it for a purpose and path for making a change in our world. Read it, study it with a group, gather with others to pray, and/or do whatever God calls you to do with the ideas in this book. But know that together our prayers, actions, and influence can move - and improve! - the mountains in our society.

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Chapter One - Introduction to the Mountains

“I will go before you and level the mountains.” - GOD (Isaiah 45:2 NIV)

Have you been frustrated, worried, scared, or even angry at the state of the world right now? Maybe it feels too overwhelming - what can any one of us do to change this messed-up world? I believe that by just reading this book, you are starting to change the world. This book is filled with God's Word and God's Word works on us when our spiritual ears are tuned in to listen. When we hear from God, then we move forward in faith, doing what he calls us to do.

So, what is “Mountain Movers?” Simply put, a way to pray for and influence our society, our nation, and our world.

If you took our culture - our society - and thought about the ways it is influenced, you would probably recognize these seven areas: Arts and Entertainment, Business/Economy, Church, Education, Family, Government, and Media. Each of these has a different, but very definite impact upon our society. In the 1970's Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth with a Mission, and Frances Schaeffer, apologist, evangelist, and pastor, were all given messages from God that led them to believe that for the Church to fulfill our call to “*go and make disciples*,” (Matthew 28:18) we would have to influence and impact these seven areas of society. Hence, the idea of “moving” the “mountains” of society.

If “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people*” (Proverbs 14:34 NIV), how is our society doing in each of these seven areas? How is our nation doing? How is our state doing? Your county? Your city or township? Do you see these geographic areas as being full of God's righteousness or full of the sin of the world?

Think of the things in your community that might seem like negative “mountains” - a school board that is opposed to the Gospel, a “gentleman's club” down the street that sells XXX movies, a “church” whose focus is not on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but on making people feel good or making itself money. Do you see space for an increase in righteousness in these seven areas, even in your own community? I expect so.

Is it even possible to change these parts of our society? Using “MOUNTAINS” as metaphors for these different areas of culture, let’s hear what some Bible verses tell us about God and Mountains:

“The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground.” (Ezekiel 38:20 NIV)

- The mountains can be overturned.

*“His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.
Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?
He moves mountains without their knowing it
and overturns them in his anger.” (Job 9:4-5 NIV)*

- God does the moving

“I will go before you and level the mountains.” (Isaiah 45:2 NRSV)

- God goes before us, calling us to follow him in the work he is doing

“He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’” (Matthew 17:20 NIV)

- We can speak to the mountains and they will move!

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)

We must pray for these mountains from the spirit of God’s love within us. We must keep our hearts pure even as we fight for God’s Truth and righteousness.

Hear this good news again: The Mountains can be overturned because God goes before us, overturning the mountains, and calling us to follow him in the work he is doing. We can speak to the mountains and they will move when we pray for them from the spirit of God’s pure love and truth within us.

We are going to move forward as Mountain Movers - influencing these seven societal mountains as we unite together in prayer. It's easy to get caught up in the chaos of the wider world, especially if we watch the news, but we can have an impact at the local level. WITH GOD WE CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS.

Think about how you can move mountains, just in your local community:

- What would your local school system be teaching, encouraging, and modeling if all the school board, teachers, and administrative leaders were Jesus-followers?
- What would your local library look like if all the board members and the librarians were Christians?
- What would happen if the businesses in this area were run by leaders who sought the Lord of wisdom and guidance, acted with integrity and honor and sought to give to and serve their communities?
- What might it be like to see & hear movies, TV shows, newscasts, social media posts, YouTube videos, songs on the radio that were positive, God-honoring, and even Biblically based?
- What would the children and families in your township look like if all the Christian churches in the area were on fire - guided by the Holy Spirit - worshiping in Spirit and in Truth - and making disciples?
- How would those lives be different? How would YOUR life be different?

Those who are "Mountain Movers" are praying for and actively working to impact their community and world with the love, grace, and righteousness of God. None of us can move all these mountains, but each of us has at least one to influence. And even a "mustard seed" of prayer and work can yield extraordinary results - especially when combined with others who are Mountain Movers. When we are led by Holy Spirit, our prayers and efforts can change these mountains from ungodly to righteous.

Before we jump right into the mountains, let's start with who we are and how God has called each of us. As you read these headings and their subsequent Bible verses, *take time* - read slowly, even - to absorb the reality of your identity in God.

1. We are God's children and heirs of his Kingdom.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3: 1 NIV)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." (Eph. 1:3-6 NRSV)

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him." (Romans 8:14-17 NRSV)

2. We are laborers in God's family, called to evangelize and disciple the nations.

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20 NRSV)

"After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way.'" (Luke 10:1-3 NRSV)

3. We are warriors for God, using the weapons at our disposal - the Word, prayer, and action - to work for God.

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.” (1 Peter 3:12 NRSV)

“Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” (Ephesians 6:13-18 MSG)

*“She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”
(Proverbs 31, 12, 17, 19, 25-27, 30 NRSV)*

4. We are led by Holy Spirit

Finally, remember that when we become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us. The Apostle Paul said it this way, *“Don’t you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19 GW)

In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote, *“The true children of God are those who let God’s Spirit lead them.”* (Romans 8:14 ICB) We who believe in Christ are the true children of God! And we let God’s Spirit lead us. As we grow in our commitment to Christ and our relationships with him, as we ask for more and more of Jesus and less and less of us, we can be filled with the gifts and power of Holy Spirit. When we pray the Spirit leads us. When we ask, the Spirit guides us. When we act, the Spirit empowers

us. Ultimately, when we impact these seven mountains toward God's righteousness, it is because Holy Spirit has led us.

We are God's children, called to labor in his Kingdom, and to use the Word, prayer, and our Holy Spirit-led actions to influence our world. When we live out the fullness of our identity in Christ and our calling by Holy Spirit, we can fulfill what God wants and needs us to do to impact our world. To put it another way, *"God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!"* (Romans 8:14 MSG)

You may be thinking, "But the world is SO BAD right now. Things look so bleak and hopeless. I'm just one little person; what can my efforts accomplish when the mess is so huge?" Remember what Jesus has done for us. Remember his work on the cross for our sins. Remember the empowerment he gave us through Holy Spirit at the first Pentecost. Remember the ways in which he has ministered to you in the past. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8 NIV) If he did all those things in the past, he will continue to help us today and into the future.

And remember that God has moved in the past - through people in the Bible like Abraham, Esther, David, Mary, Paul, Peter, and then many others we consider "spiritual giants" like Martin Luther, John Wesley, Mother Teresa, and Billy Graham. Remember that each of these - and many more - were "ordinary people" like you and me - ordinary people *with an extraordinary measure of faith.*

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that, *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* (NIV) "Now Faith" is for today - for now. Not just the past, not "hopefully in the future," but NOW! We should have confidence that our prayers can move mountains. And we have hope, assurance, and faith in God, even when we cannot see his actions. Ordinary people with faith, confidence, and assurance in God can do extraordinary things.

The Word of God is one of our weapons and we trust that when we pray God's Word it will not return void or useless. *"So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11 AMP) God's Word is powerful!

Yet, if you've been a Christian for more than five minutes, you've probably noticed that the enemy of our souls wants nothing of God's Kingdom to succeed. Instead, he does everything he can to make our efforts void and without success. BUT GOD IS STRONGER THAN OUR ADVERSARY. The enemy of our souls is just a fallen angel, with no more power than the Archangels Gabriel or Michael. And we have God's angel armies on our side! We are not alone; his Spirit guides us and he protects us. And we don't pray without the protection of God.

*WE who live in the shelter of the Most High,
WE who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "OUR refuge and OUR fortress;
OUR God, in whom WE trust."
Because WE have made the Lord our refuge,
the Most High our dwelling place,
no evil shall befall US,
no scourge will come near OUR tent.
Those who love YOU, YOU will deliver;
YOU will protect those who know YOUR name.
When we call to YOU, YOU will answer us;
YOU will be with us in trouble,
YOU will rescue us and honor us.
With long life YOU will satisfy us,
and show us YOUR salvation. (Psalm 91: 1-2, 9, 14-16 NRSV, adpt.)*

We are the sons and daughters of the God of the Universe, who calls us into his family, and gives us specific work to do in his Kingdom. He empowers us with his Spirit, his Word, and faith so that we can do what we need to. And when we pray, use our tools, and act according to God's Spirit's leading, we can move the mountains of society from a place of chaos, ungodliness, and even evil, to a place of righteousness and peace. You and I are Mountain Movers! Let's move forward in faith in our Great God!!

ACTION STEP:

Draw a simple picture of seven mountains and think about how you, personally, interact with each of these Seven Mountains of Society. Write down some ways you can pray for those areas.

A PRAYER YOU CAN PRAY:

Mountain-Moving God,

Thank you for the call to be your children and your heirs. What great love you have lavished upon us, Father! You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing, giving us salvation through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as our guide. We praise you for the glorious grace you have freely bestowed upon us and for your Spirit you have placed within us. Thank you that your call on our lives is simple, yet profound: to go and make disciples so that more and more people know they are dearly loved by you and have a purpose in your Kingdom.

Thank you that you have given us the physical and spiritual tools we need to fulfill our callings and to persevere against the forces of evil in this world. Thank you, especially, for your Word and prayer, our indispensable weapons. We pray together with believers in all times and places for the furthering of your Kingdom. Specifically, today, we pray for the seven mountains of society - government, media, education, business/economy, arts & entertainment, family and your Church. We pray that in each one of these there would be godly men and women who are standing up to darkness and pouring your Light, Life, and Love into our society.

Where mountains contain deep corruption, wickedness, fraud, and evil, we pray in the name of Jesus for a cleansing of those areas. We believe that you want righteousness and justice for this nation and so we pray that where there is evil it will be overturned, by the power of your Spirit. Give us more and more love to light up the darkness so that we can shine brightly and invite others to the warmth and beauty of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray, Amen!

Additional scriptures:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
(Eph. 1:3-6 NRSV)

"This is the message from the Lord to [you]: 'Your help will not come from your own strength and power. No, your help will come from my Spirit.' This is what the Lord All-Powerful says. That tall mountain will be like a flat place for [you]. He will build the Temple, and when the most important stone is put in place, the people will shout, 'Beautiful! Beautiful!'" (Zechariah 4:6-7 ESV)

Resources/For More Information:

Explanation of the Seven Mountains: <https://www.generals.org/the-seven-mountains>

How to pray for the Seven Mountains:
<https://blog.kcm.org/pray-7-mountains-influence-america/>