



The Dangers of High Places

ROMANS : THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION

Romans 12 & 13

Romans 12:1-2 (The Message Bible)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 13: 8-14 (The Message Bible)

Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code—don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of—finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is *love*.

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed.

We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!



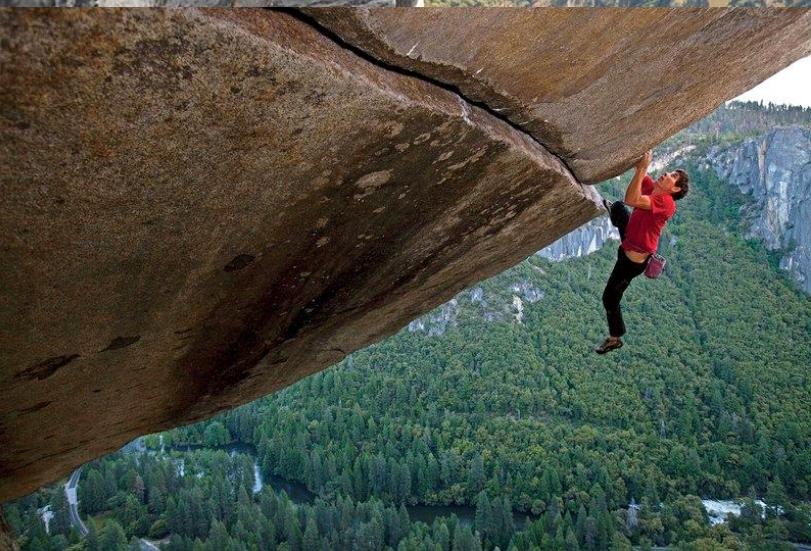
Are you
scared of
heights?



YouTube Originals



D
A
N
G
E
R



The “High Places”

Mentioned 117 times in the Old Testament

“The **high places**, however, were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.”

1 Kings 22:43

“The **high places**, however, were not removed, and the people still had not set their hearts on the God of their ancestors.” 2 Chronicles 20:33

“They angered him with their **high places**; they aroused his jealousy with their idols.” Psalm 78:58

The “High Places”

Local shrines where people would make sacrifices, burn incense, and hold festivals to worship the various gods



Romans 12:2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.” NIV

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. The Message

**Stay focused on God through
his Son Jesus Christ...**

**So that your life can be
transformed through him and
not conformed to the ways of
this world.**

*“If we fail to differentiate
ourselves from the surrounding
culture, we will lose our faith one
compromise at a time.”*

- John Stonestreet

“The Day is Near!”

Romans 13:11-14

- 1. The day our earthly life is over**
- 2. The return of Jesus Christ**

“The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Romans 13:12

DON'T BE CONFORMED,
BE TRANSFORMED

“Love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Romans 13:10

What do we need to think about this morning?

- What compromises are you making in your life that pull you away from God?
- What sin do you need to repent of?
- What change or changes do you need to make in your life?

“Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions. Wash
away all my iniquity and cleanse me
from my sin.”

Psalm 51:1-2