

Let Go of the Rope

A message from Associate Regional Minister
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Gary goes mountain climbing by himself. Done so countless times and doesn't even give it a second thought. He reaches the summit as the daylight fades and he slips and falls off of a steep cliff. As he plummets, his safety rope catches him, and he is left dangling in the dark, unable to see the bottom or climb back up.

He lacks the strength to pull himself up the 100 or so feet of rope to the ledge. He's just dangling, and desperately shouts out into the ether, "Is there anyone out there who can help me?"

A calm, reassuring voice responds to Gary's plea. "Yes, I can help you. What do you need?"

Really? You can? Wait, who is this? I can't see you?

"I'm known by many different names," replies the disembodied voice. "Know that I am the Lord your God and I can save you."

"Really?" Asks Gary.

"Yes. But I need you to believe that I can."

"Alright God, I'm there. Do your thing!"

"Do you really believe I can save you?"

Gary yells back, *"Yes, Lord, I believe you can!"*

God responds, *"Then let go of the rope."*

Gary pauses, looks down into the abyss, and back up to the ledge and asks, "Is there anybody else up there I can talk to?"

Someone once said that if you want to truly experience faith – risk something! In a world where we look for road most traveled, the most convenient, the path of least resistance; scripture often reminds us that whenever Jesus sees the disadvantaged and oppressed, he calls the Church into to action.

The way of Jesus, the path of faith, is a simple one. But simple doesn't mean easy. Maybe that's why the symbol of Christianity is a cross. We need a visible reminder that there is a cost to discipleship - a sacrifice of comfort and ease and self.

What rope are you hanging on to? What tether keeps you from going too far or doing too much? To what connection to comfort are you clinging? Whatever it is, let go of the rope, and let God do God's thing.