

If you realize after reading this that *you* don't know "who you've been climbing with", or that you have been climbing "solo" to this point, and want to know this full, abundant, everlasting life Troy spoke of – you can! It comes when you wholeheartedly acknowledges Jesus Christ *alone* as Savior, and what He did for *you personally* at the cross, and through His resurrection.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name..." (John 1:12a). "That if you shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

This tract was taken from a edited account of Troy Busby's personal testimony "Who are you climbing with?" Troy graduated from WestPoint Military Academy in 1988. He and his family are currently serving the Lord at the US embassy in Korea. Troy is a colonel in the U.S. Army stationed there. **Climbers with Christ is a ministry dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and helping build deeper relationships with both Him and others through the opportunities in His awesome creation.** You can confess your sin and acknowledge your separation from God *right now*, and in the quietness of your own heart, ask for God's forgiveness, and receive *by faith*, Jesus' gift of forgiveness and eternal life with him, or if you'd like more information on how you can have a relationship with Jesus and know more of Gods' great love for you, please contact us: **PO Box 285 Metaline Falls, WA 99153** or kmbusbysgbusby@yahoo.com.

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Who are *YOU*



"The best Anchor.. Friend... and Guide around" -JFAA.

Climbing With?

Climbing Mount Rainier is an awesome experience. The mountain dominates the skyline from Seattle's Space Needle – over 100 miles distant, but it looks especially incredible from Paradise – the Mount Rainier National Park visitors center. Located at about 5,500 feet, it is the starting point for most climbs up the 14,410 foot peak. Mount Rainier supports the largest single glacier system in the continental United States with 26 officially named glaciers. It rises from the evergreen state like an immense snow cone, relentlessly daring people to climb it. Because of its altitude, weather conditions and accessibility, it is a favorite training site for many climbing expeditions to larger peaks around the world such as Mount McKinley and Mount Everest.

Four of us had accepted Rainier's Challenge: Gil and Kevin, two fellow soldiers from nearby Fort Lewis, my brother Gavin, an experienced climber from Spokane Washington, and myself. Having climbed Mount Rainier the previous season I was the designated leader of the team. We would take the most traveled and least technical of the many routes up the mountain. We reached Camp Muir after a toilsome five-hour climb characterized by spectacular views of the mountain, Mount Saint Helens, Mount Adams and the surrounding Cascades. At approximately 10,000 feet, situated at the top of the Muir snowfield, the stone hut at Camp Muir marked the transition point in our climb from a nice day-hike to a serious climb. All movement from this

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point would be done with protection – crampons, ice axe and rope.

An evening of *rehydrating*, acclimatizing and rest prepared us for an early 2 a.m. start for the summit. If we were successful, in 6-7 hours we would reach the top.

Ingraham Flats took us across and around the first deep crevasses of the Ingraham Glacier. We then reached the "cleaver" - a knife like ridge which juts up sharply between the Ingraham and Emmons Glaciers. We climbed up the shale, rocky, and ever-eroding surface, struggling now with the thinner air which delivered less and less oxygen. To this point we had merely followed the well worn path in the snow, but as we transitioned onto the cleaver the trail became less noticeable in the dim light of dawn. We continued by following the bits and pieces of broken trail marking wands and the occasional boot print.

I realized as the terrain became more treacherous that I, as the leader, had somehow missed the beaten path and that we needed to be on the opposite side of the cleaver. I stopped the party and let everyone know my error. My brother Gavin, sensing the gravity of the situation, surveyed the steep slope and recommended he belay us off the Cleaver down onto the Emmons Glacier as climbing down the way we had come would have been not only difficult

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but dangerous. After traversing across the Emmons Glacier, we then could pick up the trail at a higher point.

I told Gavin we were in his hands, relying on his experience to get us out of the jam I had led us into. Belaying us, using a huge stalagmite of ice which had formed where the edge of the Cleaver met the edge of the Emmons Glacier as an anchor point, Gavin got us down to the glacier free from the sharp, jagged edge of the Cleaver.

For a few minutes we all just sat and rejoiced, literally laughing for joy in relief at being off the Cleaver safely. Choosing a route up the Emmons Glacier that would get us back on track, carefully we picked our way through the heavily crevassed glacier. After about an hour we had linked up with the “conventional” route, and after about three more hours of heavy breathing, struggling and “rest-stepping” we were rewarded with reaching the rim of the volcanic crater at the top of Mount Rainier. What a site! We took some pictures, drank some water and quickly began our descent. Given the weather and temperature we did not have a lot of time to enjoy the view. Fortunately, our descent was not marked with any significant detours. Climbing has provided me with many important lessons and this climb was certainly no exception. Among other things, this climb illustrated, once again, the need I had, and continue to have, to put my life in the hands of the

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Master - Jesus Christ. Gavin was a much more experienced climber with the technical expertise to get us out of a precarious situation. His experience provided the solution to a really sticky lifethreatening situation brought on largely due to my own oversight and poor route selection. I not only needed Gavin to take the lead but I depended on him to literally belay me to safety. The same is true of my relationship with Jesus. Not only is He in charge of my life, but I rely on Him daily to climb through both life’s steep terrain and gentle slopes.

Now, as skilled and veteran a climber as Gavin is he will readily admit that he is not perfect. He will also admit that he is not skilled enough to climb his way to *Paradise*. Therefore he too, has placed his life in the hands of the Master – Jesus Christ.¹ Only in His hands will we safely negotiate the dark crevasses and detours of this life.

God’s word tells us in Romans 3 verse 23, that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”, and in Romans 6 verse 23, that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

¹ Gavin did not know Jesus personally at the time of this climb on Mount Rainier in 1991. About one year later though, he did give his life to Christ. He and his wife and their eight children reside in Metaline Falls WA, and continue to share the message of Jesus and the cross through the ministry of “Climbers with Christ” and the local fellowship in the Pend Oreille Valley.

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In other words we either “live free” of the consequences of our sin by accepting Christ as our Savior, “or die” eternally by rejecting Him.

My pride may have kept me from admitting my error to Gil, Kevin and Gavin and from accepting Gavin’s solution, but I set that pride aside when faced with the alternative – a 1000 foot drop off the cleaver. Likewise, my pride, among other things, may have kept me from acknowledging the Truth, my need for Christ. Thanks to God that did not happen, and I live today a “free man” with a new life, because of the loving redeeming work of the Master.

There are those who decide to climb solo in life – those who want to rely on their own expertise or simply deny the reality of a Creator who made us and the earth we hike and climb on, but they do so at a great and eternal risk. A life without Christ inevitably ends up at the bottom of a deep, dark crevasse. A life climbed **with** Him is beyond comparison in altitude, peace and fulfillment.

My lifelong climb with Christ began on my knees some twenty years ago in Sunnyside, Washington. There I made a decision to let Christ take charge of my life and to accept his free gift of eternal life. Instead of continuing on my own precipitous path I put my life in the hands of the Master. He is that same master climber and carpenter who loved me so much He went into that deep, dark crevasse for three days to pay the wages of my sin. Climbing *with* Christ has been more than just “crevasse insurance”. Far from it!

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Living “free” is the only way to live. Christ has been true to His promise which says in John 10 verse 10, “***I have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly***”. Life with Christ is transformed from simply another climb for prestige, power or wealth to one of eternal significance. Life with Christ has been a fun, exciting and challenging relationship. Commitment and recommitment, growth and purpose, joy and hope characterize the way for me. Of course I am extremely grateful for those placed around me. Daily, I am encouraged by Christ and other *climbers with Christ*, whom all seem to say, “I love You! Be Relentless”!

The message of the entire Bible is best summarized in the gospel of John chapter three verses 16 and 17 which say, “***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved***”. Later in John 14 verse 6 Jesus says, “***I am the way, the truth and the life: No man comes unto the Father, but by Me.***” These really are words of life and prompt a response on our part. Are you climbing solo without protection? Who or what are you anchored to? In whom do you place your Hope? Have you surrendered your life to the Master? ***Who are YOU climbing with?***

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