

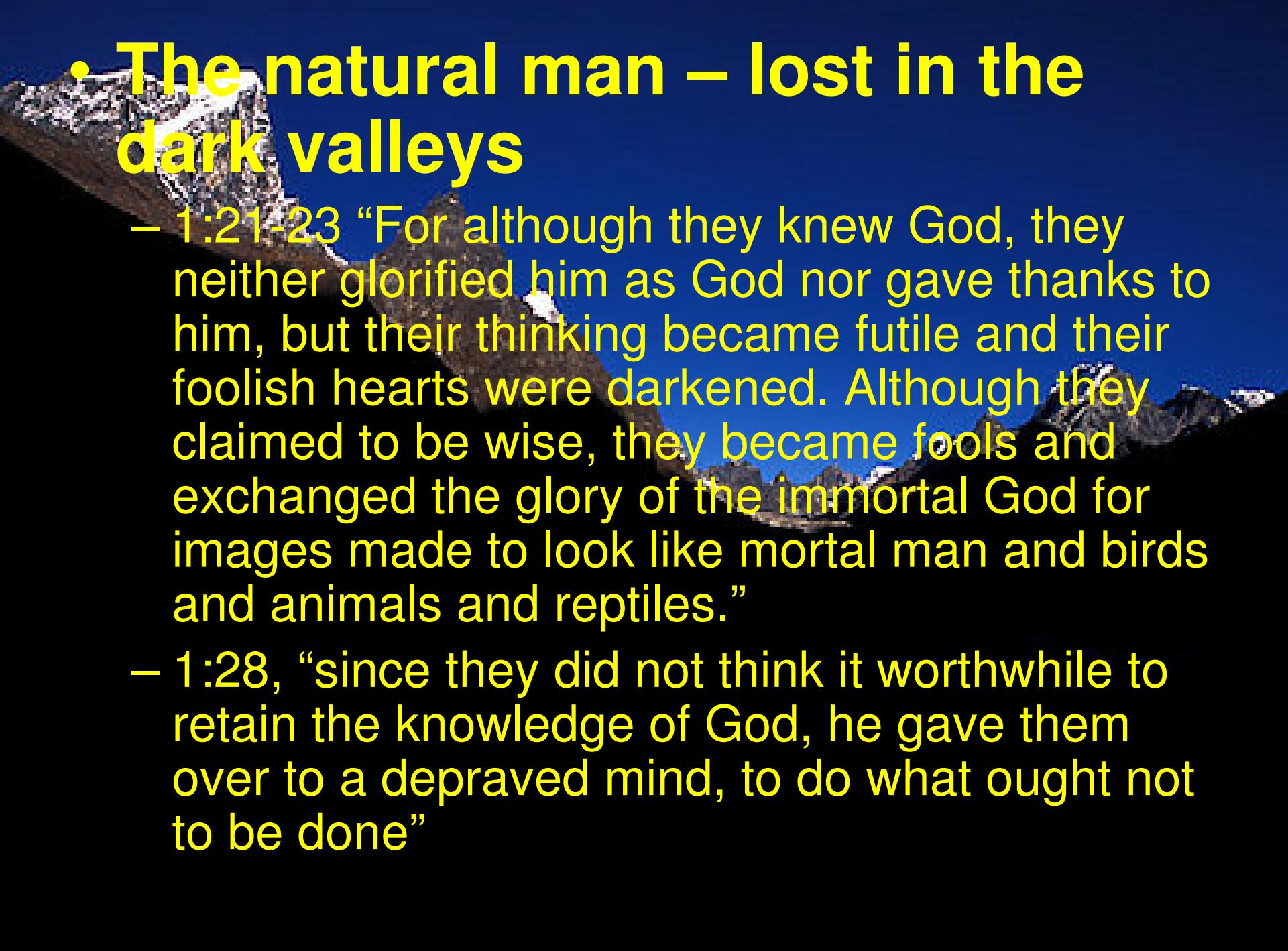


VIEWS FROM GOD'S EVEREST - 1

Romans 8:1-16
A view of man

How close is mankind to God?

- “Fatal stabbings at Belgian crèche”, “Gerrard denies nightclub assault”, “Jail for £4.2 mn cocaine smuggler”...and...”UN shocked at Gaza destruction”



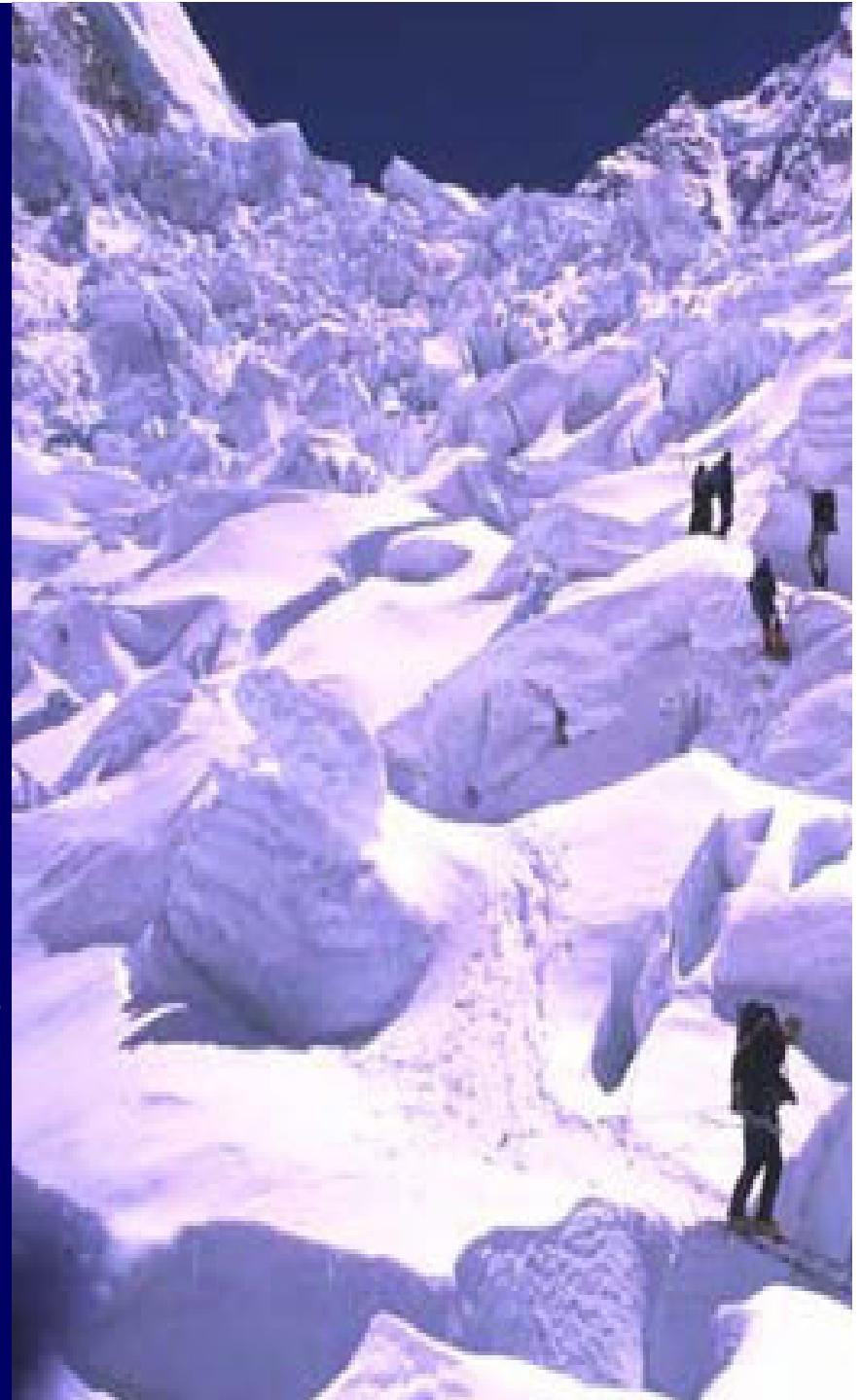
• The natural man – lost in the dark valleys

- 1:21-23 “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”
- 1:28, “since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done”

- **The self righteous – fatal slip in the foothills**
 - 2:21 “You then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?”



- **The self reliant – pitfalls and crevasses on the upper slopes**
 - 7:22-23: “So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.”



How do we reach the top to be with God?

- Jesus gets us there,
- the Holy Spirit keeps us there
- God wants us to be there



Reading: Romans 8:1-16

- “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

- Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

- And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba,Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

Jesus
gets us
there!



Jesus gets us there!

- 8:1-2 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”
- 8:3b-4a “God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us”.

The Holy Spirit keeps us there!



The Holy Spirit keeps us there!

- 8:5-6 “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace”.
- 8:11 “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

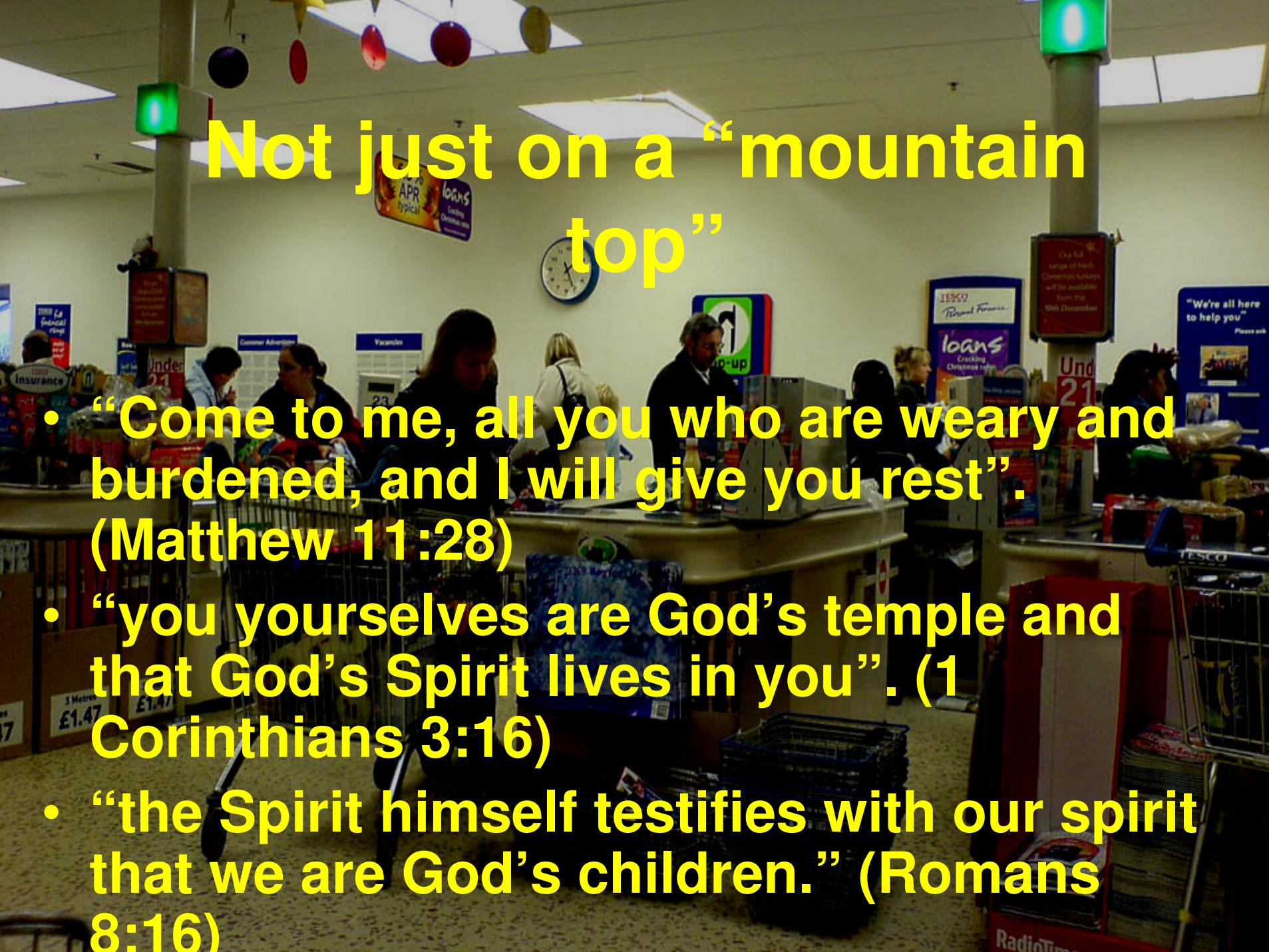


A photograph of a majestic, snow-capped mountain range under a dark sky. A full moon hangs low in the upper left, casting a soft glow on the peaks. The mountains are rugged, with deep shadows and bright highlights from the moonlight.

God wants us there!

God wants us there!

- 8:14 “those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”.
- 8:15a “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.”
- 8:15b “and by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”



Not just on a “mountain top”

- **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”. (Matthew 11:28)**
- **“you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you”. (1 Corinthians 3:16)**
- **“the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:16)**

A wide-angle photograph of a majestic mountain range. The mountains are covered in patches of white snow and rocky terrain. In the foreground, a lone figure stands on a snow-covered ridge, appearing very small against the massive scale of the mountains. The sky above is a clear, pale blue.

**God's presence is within
reach!**