

sunday solace - the upward trek

"and they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, come up hither. and they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." rev 11:12

still upward be thine onward course:
for this i pray today;
still upward as the years go by,
and seasons pass away.

still upward in this coming year,
thy path is all untried;
still upward may'st thou journey on,
close by thy Savior's side.

still upward e'en though sorrow come,
and trials crush thine heart;
still upward may they draw thy soul,
with Christ to walk apart.

still upward till the day shall break,
and shadows all have flown;
still upward till in heaven you wake,
and stand before the throne.

we ought not to rest content in the mists of the valley
when the summit awaits us. how pure are the dews of
the hills, how fresh is the mountain air, how rich the
fare of the dwellers aloft, whose windows look into the
new jerusalem!

"many saints are content to live like men in coal
mines, who see not the sun. tears mar their faces when

they might anoint them with celestial oil. satisfied i am that many a believer pines in a dungeon when he might walk on the palace roof, and view the goodly land and lebanon. rouse thee, o believer, from thy low condition! cast away thy sloth, thy lethargy, thy coldness, or whatever interferes with thy chaste and pure love to Christ. make Him the source, the center, and the circumference of all thy soul's range of delight. rest no longer satisfied with thy dwarfish attainments. aspire to a higher, a nobler, a fuller life. upward to heaven! nearer to God!" – spurgeon

i want to scale the utmost height,
and catch a gleam of glory bright;
but still i'll pray, till heaven i've found,
Lord, lead me on to higher ground!

"not many of us are living at our best. we linger in the lowlands because we are afraid to climb the mountains. the steepness and ruggedness dismay us, and so we stay in the misty valleys and do not learn the mystery of the hills. we do not know what we lose in our self-indulgence, what glory awaits us if only we had courage for the mountain climb, what blessing we should find if only we would move to the uplands of God." – J. R. M

too low they build who build beneath the stars."

modified from streams in the desert

we are all called to climb higher; to meet our full

potential at the summit. free will dictates whether we will or not, but the call echoes in every heart. this is where the rubber meets the road. it is where our efforts, resolve, or viability are put to the test; the point at which things become truly or meaningfully challenging.

"for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you."
deut 12:9 our trek remains upwards to loftier heights we have never dared before. His call beckons us on and up.