

## Climbing Higher In Our Thinking

Hiking in the mountains with her family was not easy for Janet, but she knew that the best thing to do was to keep climbing, even when she didn't want to. Sometimes the paths seemed so steep that she found it very hard to keep going up. At times, she was out of breath from climbing. Now and then her family sat down with her for a rest before going any higher. Janet and her brother and sister, Mark and Susan, would help each other by yelling out, "Come on, you can do it," when anyone got behind.



It really helped to know that when they got to the top of the mountain, there was the greatest view. Everyone would sit down for a long rest to enjoy it. From the top, Janet could see many hills and valleys in lovely shades of blue, brown, and green. She could see more mountaintops far off in the distance. The sky always seemed a deeper blue than it did anywhere else. It was then that Janet felt really good about all the effort she had made to hike up the steep paths. Going back down the mountain was not hard at all for Janet. It helped, on the way down, to know that she soon would be on her way home where she didn't need to do any more climbing.

One evening, Janet and her brother were sailing a piece of cardboard around the room to each other. Mark threw it toward Janet, but she was looking in another direction and the corner of the cardboard hit her sharply in the eye. Janet was so surprised at being hit that she began to cry and ran to her mother.

Janet's eye hurt, and she felt very angry with Mark for hitting her. Mother reminded Janet to look above the hurt and anger and look instead to God. She said that error was tempting her to accept the accident as real. Instead, she needed to see herself and Mark as God's perfect children.

It was nearly bedtime, so Janet went to bed. She stopped crying, but she could not go to sleep right away. She knew that she must stop being angry at Mark. She needed to stop seeing herself as a person with an eye that was hurt and instead see herself as God's perfect child. She thought, "God gives me my real sight. Real seeing is not in my body."

The next morning, Janet's eye still did not look normal, but she told everyone in the family that Mark didn't mean to do it. She told them that she had already forgiven him. In two more days, Janet's eye was completely well. She was so thankful that she had climbed higher in her thinking to where she could see herself and Mark as God sees them. It was just like when she had worked hard to climb the mountain to get the better view. She had seen better views of herself and of God's goodness, and she was healed.

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*Psalm 121:1 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."*