



PERSEVERANCE

BREAKING THE ICE

What was your favorite gift this Christmas?

What are some of your New Year's Day traditions?

MAIN CONTENT

Every year we start with new goals, new plans, new dreams and things we want to accomplish. This week Pastor Kevin gave us some tips on how to climb the mountains (goals, plans and dreams) before us this year.

1. What are some of the goals, dreams or plans you have for 2023?

Our goals, dreams and plans can feel like mountains to climb. In the Old Testament, we read about literal hills and mountains Abraham, Moses and others climbed to get to God. The good news is, God doesn't require us to climb any mountains to find him. He meets us right where we are and helps us climb the mountains in front of us.

Pastor Kevin told us about a teaching his pastor in Atlanta gave him when he was climbing the mountain to finish his degree. In every venture (mountain) in life, there are three zones (A,B and C). The beginning is the A zone, the time when you are dreaming and excited about the promise of a new venture.

2. What dreams do you have in the A zone currently?

The B zone tends to bring problems, frustrations and where we tend to drop to the Q Zone (quit zone). If we're not careful we can continually drop to the Q Zone when things get difficult. When things get hard and we want to quit, we have to persevere so we can get to the C Zone.

3. How often do you drop to the Q Zone? What types of obstacles make you drop to the Q Zone?

The Q Zone can keep us from doing great things and celebrating the mountains we have climbed. The C Zone is where we want to arrive. It's the celebration of what you accomplished. The pay-off for everything you went through. We have to press through the B Zone to get to the C Zone.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

Passing through the B Zone has its challenges. But Pastor Kevin gave us a few helpful tips on how we can get through the B Zone, arrive to the C Zone and climb our mountain successfully. The first tip is to consider your cheering section. You need people who have successfully climbed the mountain you want to climb to cheer you on to the top. Friends, co-workers and family members that encourage you to keep going are an important part of climbing the mountain in front of you and not quitting.

4. Who do you have around you that can cheer you on in your dreams, goals and the mountains ahead of you this year?

The second tip to get through the B zone is clear out the clutter. There could be things that are keeping you from moving forward. It could be baggage, sin or someone who keeps you from doing the right thing. We need to clear the clutter out of our lives.

5. What clutter do you need to clear out of your life so you can climb the mountain in front of you?

When things are hard we need to get our climbing companions to climb along with us. Pastor Kevin talked about having people who share the same God, the same values and the same Spirit, that can encourage you in the climb. When we have someone walking alongside us it encourages us in the climb before us.

7. Who do you have as spiritual friends in your life that can encourage you on the climb?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for the process of climbing mountains. It's in that process that we grow in our faith, lean into the friendships you have given us and remind us that Jesus is bigger than our problems. Holy Spirit, kindly convict us of the clutter that needs to be cleaned out of our lives. Remind us of the friendships you have placed in our lives that are beneficial climbing partners. Help us seek you through all of it Lord. Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ This week take time to journal those friendships God has placed in your life that cheer you on and help you climb the mountains ahead of you. Send a note to those friends and let them know your appreciation for them.

+ Pray and ask God to direct your plans for this year. Ask Him to help you fix your eyes on Him for the journeys He has for you this year.

+ This is a great time to pray and ask anyone in the group if they are feeling led to lead a group at Cross Point. We would love to connect with them if they are interested. To find out more information go to: <https://crosspoint.tv/group-leader/>