

# Understanding the Mindset of a Victim Lesson 5



Photo by Gordon Yee-Used by permission [\*]

# Section 1

## Rescue Stories

### Part 1

### Bonita Falls

- Chapter 18 Page 137
- Psalms 121:1-2 [✱]



<https://wikimapia.org/10708203/Bonita-Falls-Lytle-Creek>



- One canyon rescue kept me out all night. Our pagers informed us that two hikers had stranded themselves on top of Bonita Falls in Lytle Creek.
- Lytle creek, a small community, lies at the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.



<https://wikimapia.org/10708203/Bonita-Falls-Lytle-Creek>

- Two hikers decided to hike to the top of the falls.
- The hikers had lost the trail and were stuck at the top of a 60-foot drop-off beside the falls.
- One of the hikers had injured his ankle and needed help.



<https://wikimapia.org/10708203/Bonita-Falls-Lytle-Creek>



- The north side of Bonita Falls lies a very steep scree slope.

North  
Side





- Loose rock and shale make scree slopes very difficult to climb.
- Going up scree slopes often involves two steps up and one step back.



<https://www.summitpost.org/west-side-scee-slope/520239>

- One can actually boot ski down scree slopes.



<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/exherts.html?sortBy=relevant>



- After reaching the Bonita Falls turnout, I was informed that my partner and I would hike to the top of the falls, preparing ourselves for a cliff-side extraction.
- This is also known as a pick-off.
- We loaded our packs and began a very long and tiring ascent.



<https://www.summitpost.org/west-side-scee-slope/520239>



- A pool of water collects at the bottom of Bonita Falls.
- Our subjects could have badly injured themselves trying to come down the side of the falls.
- The dark sky made it difficult to find our subjects.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zl7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>



- The Sheriff's helicopter hovered over the trapped subjects and focused its powerful floodlight onto the subjects.
- This gave us a general direction of their location. However, a rock outcropping made visual contact difficult.



<https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/naturalist4you/28095284663/>



- While my partner and I desperately made our way up the scree slope to the top of the falls, the Sheriff's helicopter crew, in conjunction with the ground team, decided to airlift two of our rescuers to the top of the falls with ropes, carabiners, and webbing straps to set up a rappel system.
- They also brought helmets and seat harnesses for the subjects.



<https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/naturalist4you/28095284663/>



- Now this is where my competitive spirit exploded.
- There was no way I was going to let the team arrive by helicopter before my partner and I reached the top.
- What took an enormous amount of energy climbing up this steep scree slope was going to take minutes to airlift our two hikers from the ground.



<https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/naturalist4you/28095284663/>



- With every ounce of energy we had, we arrived seconds before the helicopter team touched down.
- All I could say was, “What took you so long?”
- Having my ego fix for the day, we took all the equipment for a pick-off and hiked to our stranded subjects.



<https://www.summitpost.org/west-side-scee-slope/520239>

- We quickly assessed the injuries of our subject and determined that he was fit enough to endure a rappel down the cliffside.
- We were going to tie a main line and a belay line to our sit harnesses and then attach the main and belay line to our subjects.
- We placed our subjects directly in front of us so we could maneuver and guide them down the rock face.



<https://stone-adventures.com/>



- With any rescue, we have a safety person, an operations leader, a lowering team for the main line and a lowering team for the belay line, and a rescuer.
- The operations leader decided to have me go down first with our first subject.



<https://stone-adventures.com/>

- Search and rescue teams form a close bond. We hold the ropes for each other, ensuring all procedures are secure and safe, and we place our lives into our team members' hands.
- It behooves one to watch a rescue team operate.
- All the members have a designated part to play, and they act in a fluid motion.



Photograph by Gordon Yee-Used by  
Permission



- As my subject and I descended toward the canyon floor, I knew my teammates did everything they could to keep us safe.
- I gratefully appreciated their professionalism.
- Things got interesting as the subject and I got closer to the bottom.
- A pool of water, about thigh deep, awaited us at the bottom of the falls.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zl7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>

- Since the darkness kept me from navigating, I depended on those below to guide me on which route to take.
- My teammate in charge of the ground units recommended that I continue a straight downward path along the cliff's side.
- We landed in the middle of the pool at the base of the falls.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zl7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>



- Sloshing our way out onto dry land, we unhooked the main and belay lines and waited for the second team to descend.
- The second team took the same route we had taken; however, just before they hit the pool, they noticed a better route to the left.
- With that route, they missed the pool entirely.
- Both members landed on dry land.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zi7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>

- I stood there soaking wet while the other two remained completely dry.
- I thanked my ground partner profusely for making such a fine, calculated call by sending me into the pool.
- All in all, it has made for great laughs over the years.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zl7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>

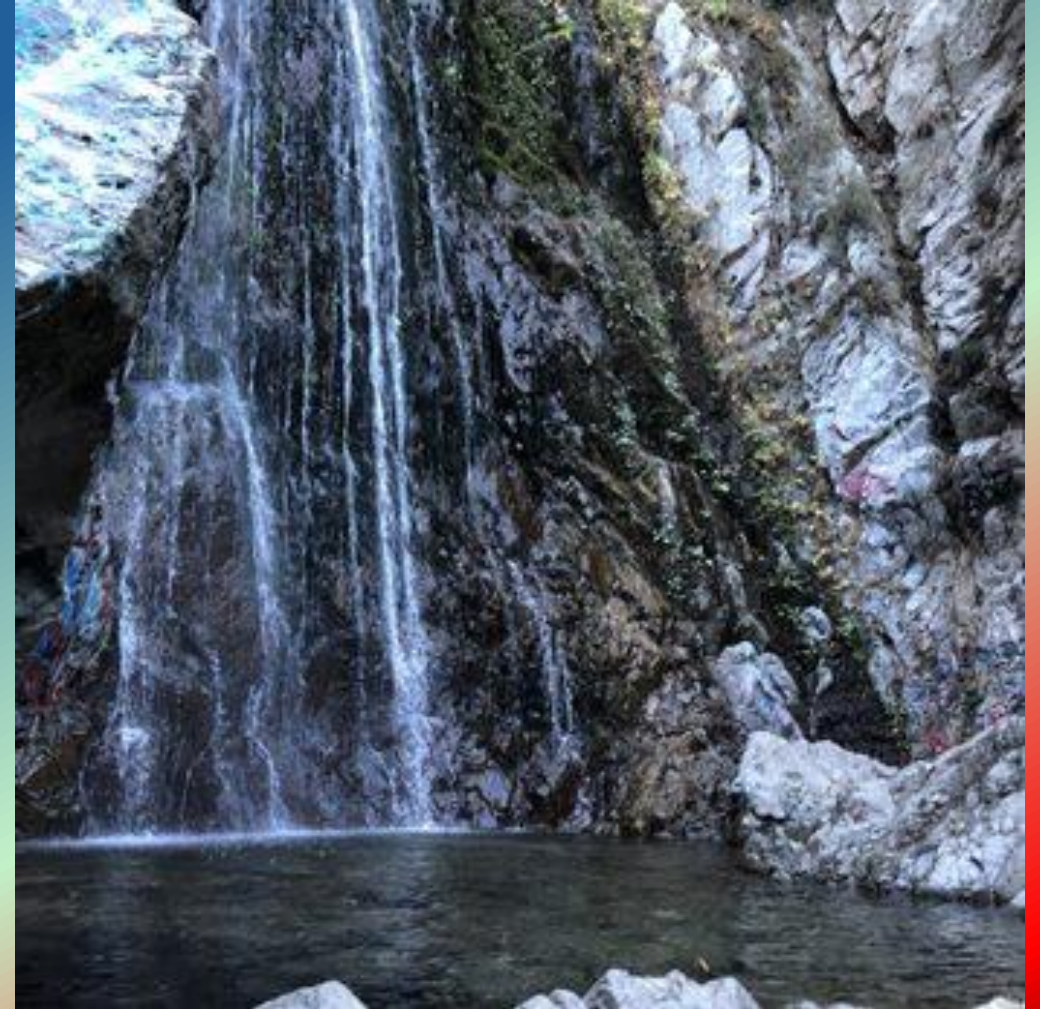


- Morning soon approached, and I had to hurry home and get ready for school.
- As I drove out of the canyon, it began to rain.
- I thanked God for holding off the rain until after the rescue.
- I made it to school just in time for my first period class.



<https://s3-media0.fl.yelpcdn.com/bphoto/zl7E21Q0K1TZNzqmiEjxaA/348s.jpg>

- I found it amusing to have taken part in a cliffside rescue and soon thereafter to have instructed a classroom full of high school students on the fine points of American history.





- We receive the most satisfaction in life when we help others.
- I have noticed that material possessions often bring limited happiness, while assisting others brings lasting joy.
- This type of joy overshadows our landing in a pool of life's waters.
- Acts 20:35 [✱]



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by Permission

# Rescue Stories Part 2

## Understanding the Mindset of a Victim in a Canyon Rescue.

Chapter 26 Page  
173

Philippians 2:3-4 [\*]



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10,  
2001



- Search and Rescue members must understand the mindset of an injured subject.
- Role-playing a subject can certainly give a rescuer a perspective on the subject's mindset.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001

- Our team practiced many cliff-side scenarios.
- We often trained using more complex rope systems and scenarios than most rescues would entail.



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by permission



- In this particular training exercise, we practiced tying each other into a litter and lowering them over the side of a 40-foot rock cliff.
- There was a running stream at the bottom of the canyon.
- This scenario took place just off of Mt. Baldy Road.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001

- In this scenario, I volunteered as the attendant while strapped to the side of the rescue litter.
- Later on, I decided to set an example for the team and volunteer as the subject.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- An eerie feeling swept over me as I looked up from the litter to see various rescue personnel hovering over me, speaking in rescue jargon.
- I suddenly realized what a rescue subject must feel like when treating their injuries and tying them into a litter.
- This experience taught me a valuable lesson on the importance of rescue etiquette.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- The realization that sudden death could easily occur if anything went wrong brought me to my senses. I'm thinking, "Can we play rock, paper, scissors"?
- I saw helmeted heads with eye-protection goggles hovering over me while talking in rescue vernacular.
- It sounded more like code talkers of World War II.
- I heard steel carabiners snap into place.

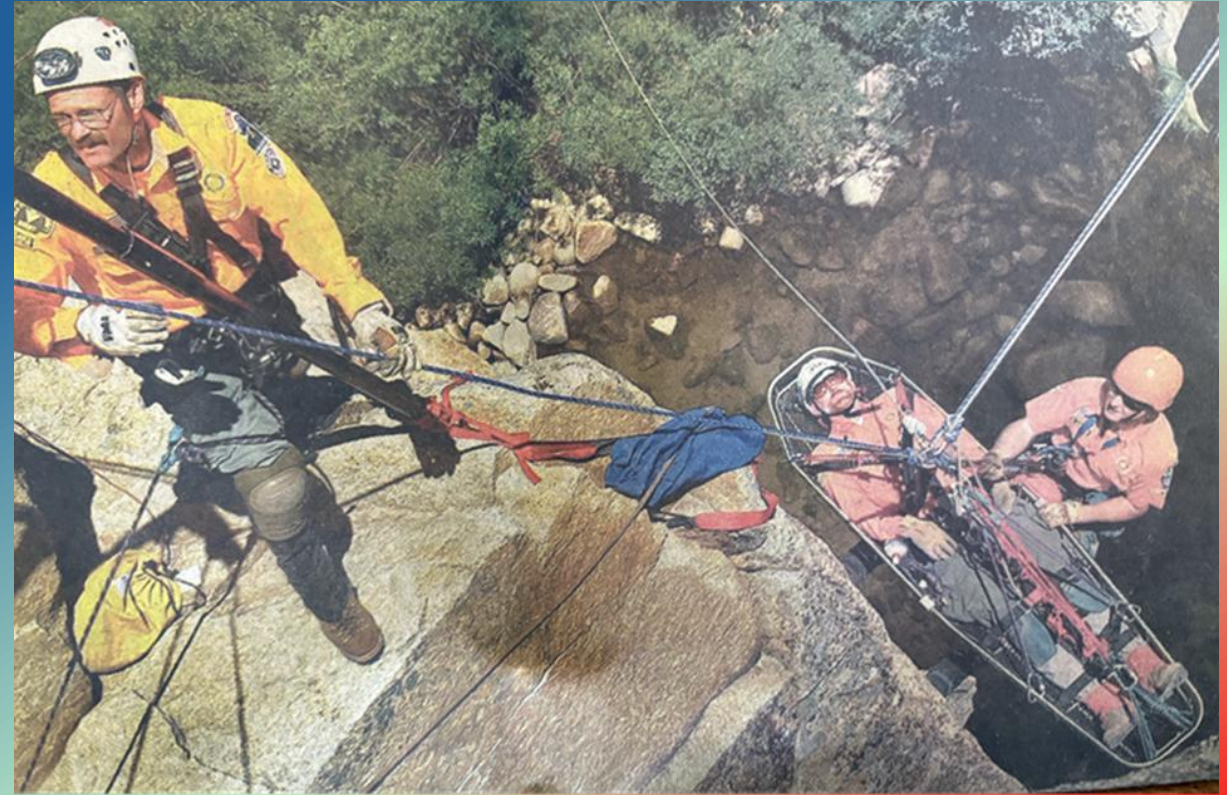


Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- “What is this?” I thought, “The electric chair? We’re not at San Quentin, are we?”
- I heard the command, “Take him to the edge.” I began confessing all my sins; I promised God that I would go to Africa as a missionary and even pledged to start recycling if He kept me safe.”

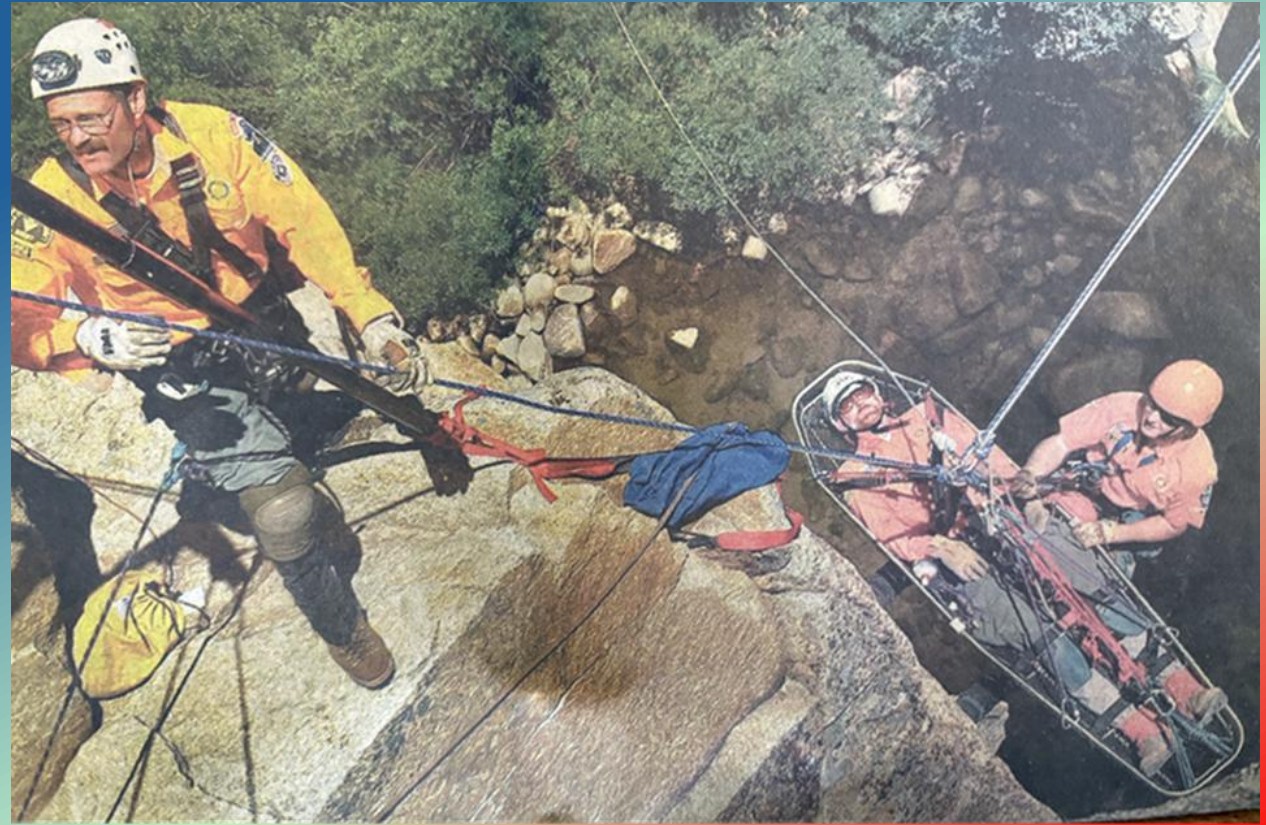


Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- The team lifted me and placed the litter at the very edge of the cliff.
- I looked straight up at the clouds, knowing that I could play the harp on one of them in a matter of moments.
- I heard the litter scrape the rock edge as my descent began.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- Two litter attendants had attached themselves to the sides of the litter.
- Their presence comforted me; at least I won't die alone.
- We began a slow descent. After about 15 feet, everything stopped.
- I opened my eyes to see if I had a harp.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001

- Instead of a harp, the two attendants turned the litter onto its side.
- Only the litter straps held me in. I'm thinking, "Hey, fellas, is there a point to this? Did I say something to offend you?"
- I felt the straps tighten around my body.
- Miraculously, I remained secured in the litter.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- They wanted to prove their strapping system worked. I hoped they did not use slip knots.
- While trying to preserve any ounce of manhood by not reciting The Lord's Prayer too loudly, I glued my eyes to the litter attendants.
- I thought, "Okay, guys, let's not mess up. I do not want to play "Heavenly Sunshine" in G Major on a harp tonight."

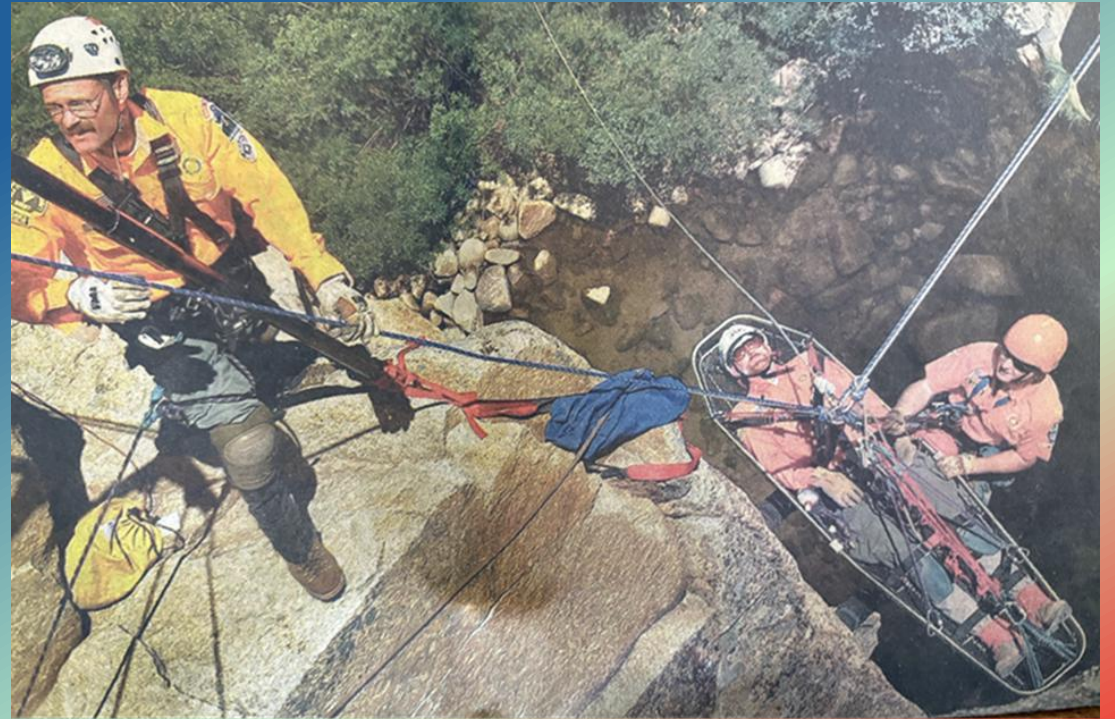


Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001

- The litter team gently rolled me back into position and then gave the command to begin the hoist.
- The lowering team quickly switched over to a raising system.
- Relief swept through me as I felt myself starting to rise.
- When I reached the top, another team stood at the edge and helped us up and onto terra firma.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



- My litter experience reminds me of life's journeys.
- Difficulties will come our way. James 1:1-4,12 [✱]
- Do you feel like a subject tipping sideways in life's litter or hanging onto life by a few strips of webbing?
- Have life's trials brought discouragement? Psalms 55:22 [✱]



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001

- When you focus on life's rushing waters below, remember that God has His arms holding you securely to His litter.



Photo by Eric Reed. The Sun, San Bernardino County, CA. June 10, 2001



Section 2  
Wilderness Safety  
Snow and Ice Travel  
Chapter 39 Page 259  
Psalms 40:1-2 [\*]



Photo by Eric Spaeth-Used by permission

# The Ice Axe



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by permission



# Crampons



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by permission



# Snow cave construction



Photo by Eric Spaeth-Used by permission





<https://www.kuhl.com/borninthemountains/how-to-build-a-winter-survival-shelter>

# Avalanche



<https://www.guidedolomiti.com/en/the-avalanches/>



# A Spiritual Wrap-Up

## Section 3

### The Miracle of Life

- Chapter 48 Page 307
- Jeremiah 1:5 [\*]



Photo by Rick Sforza. Daily Bulletin, Ontario, California.  
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- God blessed (my words) Mom and Dad with twin boys, Marvin and me, on October 27, 1951, in Hollywood, California.
- During my first few months of life, I contracted double pneumonia, and the doctors did not feel I would survive the night.
- This prognosis devastated my parents.





Mervin



- As my mom says, she went home and cried out to the Lord for my healing.
- She remembers reading her Bible and placing it in the bedroom.
- As she walked into the living room, she found her Bible on a pillow on the couch.





- She could not believe what she saw since she had just left the Bible in the bedroom.
- The Bible was opened to Psalms 41:1-3. [\*]
- My mother instantly ran to the hospital, knowing god had healed me.
- When Mom arrived at my hospital door, she noticed the hospital staff had removed the oxygen sign.



- The removal of the oxygen sign typically would have terrified her into thinking I had died during the night.
- Before the doctor could say a word, my mother shouted, "God healed my son."
- The doctor responded, "Yes, He did."
- God had instantly and completely healed me.





- As Christians, my parents led my brother and me to the Lord at an early age.
- They taught us that Jesus would always stay with us.
- However, I must admit that my faith has often faltered over the years.
- I am learning that God's patience never fails, even when I do not trust Him.



- I am sometimes cautious in presenting stories like this because God does not always work in visual ways.
- I sometimes think God reveals Himself to those with the weakest faith.  
John 20:29 [✱]





God has given each of us  
the miracle of life.

We must decide what to do  
with that life.

I encourage you not to  
waste it.

Trust God, let him take off  
your oxygen sign, and  
experience the miracle of  
life.



## Part 2

## Preplanning

Chapter 48 Page 311

1 Peter 1:13

John 16:33

Hebrews 10:25 [\*]



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- People do not always understand that volunteers make up most rescue teams.
- Our team consisted of men and women who were either reserve deputies or civilian volunteers.
- In either case, we had full-time jobs.



Photo by Rick Sforza-Used by Permission

- Since we had full-time jobs, we had to talk to our employers and ask for permission to, at times, take off work.
- If we could not get enough volunteers, we would call in other local teams.
- Sometimes our searches involved a state-wide callout.



Photo by Gordon Yee-Used by Permission



- Our team always made it a point to stay prepared for a callout.
- We called this preplanning.
- Our members organized their vehicles with packs and duffel bags filled with rescue equipment.
- Whether we deployed in the winter or summer, we always had our gear stowed in our vehicles or somewhere nearby.



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by Permission

- We had to organize our gear so we could deploy quickly.
- It took away much valuable time for a team member to fumble around trying to find the right gear to take.



Photo by Chris Brookhart-Used by Permission



- As part of our preplanning, each member familiarized themselves with the mountain roads and trails; they practiced radio communication, memorized the location of all equipment in the rescue trucks, and knew how to set up a command post quickly.



Photo by Eric Spaeth-Used by Permission

- Adequate preplanning took years to accomplish.
- Every search or rescue operation usually had a slightly different scenario, thus causing us to adjust our preplanning strategies.
- As time elapsed, our team honed down the preplanning techniques quite well.



Photo by Gordon Yee-Used by Permission



- The Christian life mirrors the preplanning efforts of my search and rescue team.
- God never intended for Christians to live isolated lives.
- We need each other in our spiritual growth and development.



- It often takes years for Christians to learn to work together while preplanning for the preparation and propagation of the Gospel.
- Christ intended for His church to function in one fluid motion. (Hebrews 10:25) [\*]





# Summary

- The Christian life should not run as a one-person operation.
- Christian living constitutes a team effort and takes preplanning.
- Don't wait for trouble to appear before organizing your spiritual duffel bag.
- Preplan and organize it now with other believers and prepare yourself when those callouts come your way. End--  
-What a Friend---



<https://www.freepik.com/photos/choir>



## Psalms 121:1-2

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;  
From where shall my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth. [\*]



## Acts 20:35

35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' [\*]

## Philippians 2:3-4 [\*]

2 ...make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. [\*]



## Psalms 40:1-2

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;

And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,

And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.

[\*]

Jeremiah 1:5

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
And before you were born I consecrated you;  
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.” [\*]



1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Over---

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Over---



## Hebrews 10:25

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. [\*]

## James 1:2-4,12

2 Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. [✱]



Psalms 55:22

22 Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you;  
He will never allow the righteous to be shaken. [\*]

## Psalms 41:1-3

1 Blessed is one who considers the helpless;  
The Lord will save him on a day of trouble.

2 The Lord will protect him and keep him alive,  
And he will be called blessed upon the earth;  
And do not turn him over to the desire of his  
enemies.

3 The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed;  
In his illness, You restore him to health. [\*]



John 20:29

29 Jesus \*said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.” [\*]

## Hebrews 10:25

25 ...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. [\*]