

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

A Friend on the Mountain

“The first step is always the hardest,” I reminded myself as I looked down the ski slope. It was soooo far to the bottom... Every muscle argued (quite convincingly, I thought) against taking the plunge; but I have a somewhat irritatingly logical mind, and I reminded myself that if I didn’t do something, I might still be debating the issue after nightfall...not a happy prospect, to say the least.

Now, another logical person might ask, “What in heaven’s name were you doing up there in the first place?” (I know I asked that question...) And the truth is: that the hill didn’t look so high when I was down at the bottom. In fact, before I knew what was happening, a nice chair was offered to my backside and I was carried, irrevocably, to the top of, what had seemed to be, a gentle slope.

(It’s amazing how one’s perception of things change when one is suddenly standing in a different spot.)

And, logic to the contrary, I might still be standing there if it wasn’t for the encouragement of a friend...

“You can do it! Just take your time...follow me...You’re doing great!”

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...someone who had been there before. And, somehow, bit by bit, slowly and carefully, I made my way back to safe and gloriously level ground.

Maybe that's the way it is with any of the major pit-falls in life: we find ourselves frozen in one position, bound up in our own doubts...unable to go backwards...afraid to go on. But, like the Israelites, led out of bondage...we have a friend on the mountain; for

"I am with you" [Matt. 28:20]

said the Lord; and I can almost hear Him say,

"You can do it! Just take your time...and follow me."

(February 17, 1981)