

This is Christian prayer. This is our foretaste of Heaven. This is what gives us hope. This is Jesus taking us up the mountain – one step in front of another, and, as St Patrick puts it, “Christ beside me, before me and behind me”, falling down and being picked up again, getting lost and being found again, persevering to the end, determined to reach the summit. And we **will** get there, it isn’t much further. But only because Jesus is leading us, guiding us and carrying us. No amount of spiritual effort will get us up to the summit **unless** we have Jesus. Hold on to him. Let him take you up the final ascent. Let him take you right to the top. Let him take you into the heart of the cloud.

The good news is that in our Baptism we have already arrived. We have reached the summit. We are in the cloud. Our vision has become a bit fuzzy and dark, and we are not sure what is going on. As for beginning to **describe** what is going on, we are completely lost for words. We do know we are in the presence of something amazing but we are confused, uncertain and bewildered. And then, quite suddenly, we see him, just for a moment, in all his glory. Our past flashes before us, Moses and Elijah, everyone who has helped us on our way. Everything is put into perspective. Everything now makes sense, in a way that it never did before.

A voice speaks to us in the silence *“This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.”* Nothing else needs to be said. All we need to do is listen to that silence. We, too, are sons and daughters. We, too, are chosen, to share with Jesus, to be part of Jesus, to have arrived already at our heavenly homeland.

How wonderful it would be to stay on this mountain for ever, to live a life of contemplation and rest, a life completely transfigured with love, to reproduce here on earth heaven itself. But this clearly is not what God has in mind for us. The Transfiguration comes to an end. Jesus and his disciples have work to do, as we do too, work which will take us to the Cross.

The whole point of our spiritual experiences, our sense of love, our sense of being with the Lord, is to share it with others, to take our transfigurations to the furthest ends of the world and to the darkest corners of human existence.

We have been to the summit. We have seen the Lord and we have heard his voice. We have tasted the delights of Heaven itself. So now, with Jesus, let us set our face towards the Cross, towards the daily grind of ordinary living, towards the giving of ourselves away in love and service.

Not only shall I *see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living*, I have already seen *the Lord’s goodness* on the holy mountain.

*Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord.*

Fr Michael