

Dear Friends,

Having spent a few days in Matlock meeting up with a friend, we spent one day visiting the Heights of Abraham. Travelling by cable car is not my preferred mode of transport but I took a deep breath and found it wasn't as bad a time as I anticipated. Having seen it from the road, there is the point where the cable cars slow right down in the middle, seeming to stop, to allow people to get on and off at the top and bottom. At this point, if you're brave enough to look, there is a remarkable view all around.

As I look back on the cable car journey many things come to mind. There are times where things seem to go quite quickly, and there's a lot of things to consider. On other occasions it is not the case and the stopping in the middle, not quite sure of the direction to take may be another. Going uphill can be exciting as reaching out to something new, or it can feel like a real struggle where nothing seems to fall into place. Going down rapidly can feel like a nosedive or a relief.

In relation to God, there can be times where our walk with Jesus feels like all these things. Sometimes it is only one, and at others, it is a combination of several of them all at once. As a disciple we are always seeking to become more like Christ. What does becoming look like for each of us? To become more like Christ will take a different path for us all. In Psalm 139 we are reminded that we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made' and that there is nowhere we can go where God isn't already present. God knows us better than we know ourselves, our thoughts, actions and words.

This should be encouraging as we recognise that God made us to be unique and so our journey with Jesus is also unique. At the same time, sat in a cable car suspended halfway between the top and bottom of a hill, whether in actuality of metaphorically, can be somewhat disquieting. We are always searching for answers but sometimes we need to stop, rest and trust in God.

August is a month where the routines change, roads are quieter, some places are busier, the usual activities stop or change and it can be a time of disquiet. For some, it feels like running full steam ahead whereas for others it is too quiet and the time drags. It is a time to be patient and to develop our trust in God. The Holy Spirit will guide us in the becoming more like Jesus but we need to allow the space of a different time and routine to prompt us in what 'becoming' looks like in this moment.

As we take the time to do something different, we might take the metaphor of the cable car journey and think about where we are with God and who, in this season, we are becoming. It may be a good time to bring before Jesus the things which are on our hearts, knowing that God knows them already, but that the Holy Spirit is waiting for the moment to continue the transformation in our lives that has already begun.

God bless,
Chris