



Great faith is not the faith that
walks always in the light and
knows no darkness, but the
faith that perseveres in spite of
God's seeming silences.

Believe

I made this photo at the end of a very long day. The location is Cades Cove Tennessee in the Smokey Mountains. This is a very popular and beautiful destination; and I seem to travel here each time I journey to this great National Park. One reason I love this part of the park is because of the wildlife that can always be seen while traveling on the trail. Seldom do I pass through here without seeing bear, deer and turkeys.

I said that this was taken at the end of a very long day, well; the mountain you see beyond the tree is Rich Mountain. There is a hiking trail across the mountain and on this day, the bear was not the only thing that "went over the mountain". If I remember correctly, it is supposed to be an 8 mile hike up the mountain and back again. The trail is mainly used by horses, but today, I was the only pony on the trail.

Look closely and you can see that this photo was taken at sunset as darkness was beginning to creep into the valley. I had planned for this hike to take about 5 hours, but it ended up taking about 7 hours to find my way back to this tree. In the middle of my hike, I began to doubt making it out of the forest before the dark night took me prisoner. I was tired, hungry and frustrated as I began to look at my watch and do the math. But lucky for you, I kept on walking, and eventually was freed from my shadowy prison.

Today, it may seem like you have lost your way, like you are simply walking in circles and not sure which way to go. Perhaps, you have been working so hard for so long and when you do the math, you are not sure if you will make it out of your difficult situation. Maybe you have a dream for your life, something you want to accomplish, something big and bold, but you are afraid to begin. Remember, he that perseveres makes every difficulty an advancement and

every contest a victory. The secret is to just keep on going. Take the first step and do not stop. You can do it!

Something to think about:

- Dark as my path may seem to others, I carry a magic light in my heart. Faith, the spiritual strong searchlight, illumines the way, and although sinister doubts lurk in the shadow, I walk unafraid toward the enchanted wood where the foliage is always green, where joy abides, where nightingales nest and sing, and where life and death are one in the presence of the Lord. - HELEN KELLER
- Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.
- Faith grows only in the dark. You've got to trust him when you can't trace him. That's faith.
- Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark.
- You must scale the mountains if you would view the plain.

The guy telling you to, "keep on going".
Rickey Moore