



MAKE YOUR MOVE

"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13 NLT

Life can be challenging and change can be difficult. You'll never succeed if you want to remain the same. It's difficult to transition to the next level successfully unless you know God has a better plan for you. You have to be willing to leave your past in order to move forward with confidence. Taking a step of faith is your first move. God will not always give you the whole plan. He simply wants your obedience. We see this in the life of Abraham. "It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8 NLT)

TRANSITIONS

The word transition means a movement, passage, or change from one position or state to another. In the book of Proverbs it says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NLT) Some have difficulty transitioning because they want the full picture, especially when it comes to following God's plan for their lives. In order to face the unknowns of the future, we need to have confidence in God's Word so we can move into the next season of our lives.

BE COMMITTED

God wants us all be be committed to his

plan so His church can work together completing his purposes. The Apostle Paul demonstrated his commitment to follow God's plan when He said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:6-7KJV) Moving ahead requires a reliance upon God for everything that we need. He never leads us where he can't keep us. For His vision he gives provision. Paul said he finished His course. He was ready to leave this earth because he successfully completed all the transitions God had for him.

MOVING PAST HARD TIMES

The Apostle Paul was not crying about his past mistakes and failures because he stayed faithful to the plan of God. A leader that I admired for years once said, "The things you cry about today you'll laugh about tomorrow". We all face hard seasons and disappointments in life. The Prophet Samuel received this advice from God to help him make a difficult transition. "Now the LORD said to Samuel, 'You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there. for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." (I Samuel 16:1 NLT) God wanted Samuel to move on to the next phase of his assignment. He had to leave his season with Saul in order to enter a David season with as Kina. Sometimes we become so emotional about the past that we can't move ahead

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in life. When we can't deal with our past mistakes, failures and disappointments, we hinder God from moving in our lives and limit our ministry to others who need our help.

STEPS TO MOVE FORWARD

Here are three steps that will help you move forward in God's Plan for your life.

1) Learn to FORGIVE

We can't be in bondage to our hurts, resentments and grudges. Psychologists say that holding on to unforgiveness keeps us in chains, but letting go frees us to move forward. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV) Forgiveness is not dependent on our emotions. We forgive as an act of our faith.

2) Learn to FORGET

Many are held back by either the bitter past or the "good old days." They can't seem to cross over the bridge from the old to the new. We must leave it all behind. We can't move into the future lugging the baggage from our past. Paul learned this valuable lesson: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." (Philippians 3:13 KJV) God will not erase our memories, but we can make a choice to leave the past behind and put our focus on what God wants for our lives today.

3) Learn to walk by FAITH

Walking by faith means we walk by principles, not by circumstances emotions! "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7) The faith life is not an option. When we walk by faith we govern our lives by the Word of God. We don't walk by our own opinions, ideas or thoughts. We must always ask ourselves, "What does the Word say about my situation?" and then act accordingly. Living by faith is the only way we can move forward in God's plan.

Following God into uncharted territories in your life is not always easy, but the rewards are worth every risk. As you leave the comfortable and familiar behind, you will transition into God's exciting plan for your life. You can share Paul's triumphant words: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Miigwetch, Dr. Roma J. Fisher

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