



The Revolutionaries Way



Trust God. Embrace Change. Move forward.

Title page

The **REVOLUTIONARIES** Way

A true Biblical perspective of living
the life we have been called to live.

BY MATTHEW TARKINGTON

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version

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Forward

*It has been said, that the enemy of great is good. We all have a desire to be great, to go beyond good and enter into the realm of greatness. My friend, Matthew Tarkington's book, *The Revolutionaries Way* will show you the path beyond good into the realm of greatness!*

*Matthew Tarkington's vast spiritual knowledge, humor, relevant teachings and life changing applications are all on display in *The Revolutionaries Way*. Matthew has a way of making things simple and applicable to everyday life that will challenge you to spark a revolution in your life.*

Matthew uses three simple but powerful principles to challenge you to take the path of a revolutionary. This book will assist you in understanding what it means to trust God and it will inspire you to trust God above anything else you may know or encounter.

One of the most difficult things in life is change. Change is often difficult but it is essential to reaching greatness. In this book, Matthew encourages you to not resist change but to embrace it. He lays out very eloquently how to do so and how it impacts your revolution.

Many people get stuck in the redundancy of everyday life or in the effects of the past situations. The Revolutionaries Way will show you how to move forward into greatness!

Matthew's life experiences and understanding of scripture allow these three principles to come alive in a way that will help you to understand their meaning and apply them to your life.

This is a phenomenal book for anyone who desires to see a revolution in their life.

Prepare to be inspired.

Prepare to be challenged.

Prepare to be enlightened.

Prepare to find The Revolutionaries Way!

Pastor Evan Black,

Senior Pastor of Faith 4 Life, Austin, Texas.

The Revolutionaries Way

The Bible is not full of normal people.

Just being a regular man or woman did not put anyone on the pages of the most widely read, majorly publicized, book ever made.

Perhaps it is full of people who USED to be normal, however as they took certain steps that God had outlined to them their lives were anything but NORMAL – it was revolutionary...

God is a God of revolution.

From Genesis 1:1 to the end of Revelation, God is bringing revolution into the world.

Genesis 1:1 – 3

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

God began the creation of the earth as we know it with 4 words (only 2 words in Hebrew) –

“LIGHT BE!”

Now, remember, at the time He spoke this, everything was still dark!

Darkness was normal, darkness was everything and everywhere!

In one move God called **revolution** to happen – God called change to happen on the earth!

WITH TWO WORDS GOD CHANGED EVERYTHING!

Just a few verses down, we see God create Adam. One of Adam's primary purposes was to be a revolutionary:

*“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and **over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth, and subdue it**: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”*

Let's look at two phrases in this text:

1) Over all the earth –

Adam and Eve were created in an itty bitty piece of land called the garden of Eden. If they were called to have dominion over ALL THE EARTH that meant they had to take their dominion beyond that small area of the garden.

2) Subdue the earth –

To subdue means literally means **to conquer to bring down, or to bring under subjection.**

If Adam needed to “subdue” the earth. That means “the earth” was doing something different and Adam needed to bring change.

He needed to bring revolution!

From Adam to the Apostles – Every great man or woman of God listed in the Bible was a revolutionary. Every one of them followed three simply put, but difficult to do, steps:

Trust God,



Embrace Change,



Move Forward at any Cost.

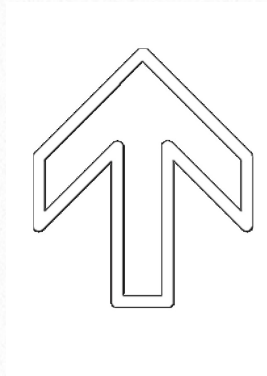


That's what this book is about.

That's what I want my life to be about.

That's what God called you and I to live: The Revolutionary's Way

Trust God



“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

– C.S. Lewis

“Faith...”

It’s a word we hear quite often in Christian circles.

Faith has been illustrated as a tiny mustard seed or an invisible force shrinking a fig tree or even moving a mountain.

Faith has become such a catch-phrase in Christianity that it has lost much of its very simplistic and intrinsic meaning.

Faith is simply **TRUSTING GOD**.

Hebrews 11:1 –

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Let's read it in the message translation:

"The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see."

Trust in God is how we are called to **LIVE** the life we have been given.

Our trust in God is the foundation of "EVERYTHING THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING."

It's the substance that makes the dreams that God has birthed within you tangible.

It's the evidence that everything is going to change, when everyone around you thinks it will always be the same.

The first step to revolution is always **TRUST**.

It's more than just a word. It's a state of existence.

The question becomes who or what is your trust in?

If it's in your own abilities, your passion to see things done or your knowledge of how things work, your trust will fail you. Even if it's in your own faith it won't work.

I've heard people say "Well, as long as I have faith in something I'll be alright."

No, you won't!

I can FULLY TRUST that my belief in air will supersede gravity's pull and jump off of a cliff. Is my EXTREME MEASURE OF FAITH going to change my outcome? No.

Trust in any or everything isn't trust – it's delusion.

It's not about YOU, it's about who or what your TRUST is in.

Let me provide an example.

During Jesus' ministry one day, a woman, sick with what we are told in scripture as an "issue of blood" simply touches Jesus' clothes. She believed that Jesus could heal her. In doing so, she saw a miracle take place!

Mark 5:34

"And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace and be whole of thy plague."

Yes, her trust in God made her whole, that's true. However I doubt that this woman ran home telling everyone "MY FAITH MADE ME WHOLE! I'M AMAZING!"

Rather, she would probably say that it was the miracle God-man, Jesus of Nazareth, that made her whole.

But really, it was both.

The woman couldn't just fully trust in a statue or a tree and see her healing. Equally, on the same note, Jesus needed the woman to fully trust God to do the miraculous in her life.

Your trust in God is the supernatural authority to enact whatever change God desires on this earth and in your life!

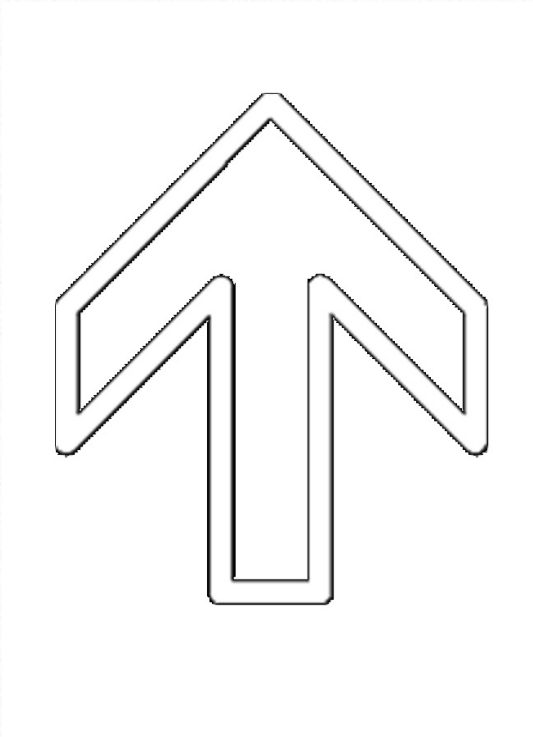
When we fully understand this and walk it out, revolution becomes a BI-product of LIVING! Everyday becomes another opportunity to trust God more fully, and see change become more real.

God is a God of revolution, and we must trust Him and walk it out.

Trust God, and see the change!

1

Trust God - Cars, Lights and the Old Broken Sofa



Cars, Lights and the Old Broken Sofa

When I was a teenager I had a friend who had an amazing basement.

Video games set up to an old TV (*you know, the ones that were wooden all around and weighed as much as 3 grown men*), a beat up coffee table, a lazy boy chair and an old sofa.

I've always liked old furniture, although not much to look at, they always have that comfy "worn-in" quality to it.

My friend that day, as he always did, ran over to the couch and jumped over from behind it onto it.

All I heard was "CRACK" as I watched my friend tumble from the sofa.

It broke.

He never expected it to brake, and neither did I. As he got up, amidst my uncontrollable laughter, we stood together staring at the sofa in disbelief that it broke!

Sometimes I find we don't trust God as much as an old broken sofa.

We were more amazed that the sofa DIDN'T work! We never sat on the sofa and said "WOW! This is a miracle! The sofa held us! THIS IS AMAZING! Someone shout! We need to Myspace this! (facebook wasn't big back then)."

How many times do we treat God's promises like that?

"Well, God... I'm not sure if this is going to work or not... I guess I'll try... maybe... or maybe later would be better."

We kind of test the waters of God's promises, sticking one foot in and one foot out. Seeing if it's comfortable enough to dip in...

Why does it seem so scary to live a life of faith?

You live faith every day of your life. You just don't notice it because it's normal...

Every time you turn the key in your car you have full faith that the car will turn over and shift into gear. You are more amazed when it DOESN'T work!

Every time you flip the light switch in your house you aren't amazed that it does what it does.

You may not be able to tell me how a car works, or how the electricity gets to the light bulb. You don't need to know how it works, you just operate in faith!

It's normal. It's what you expect.

God is calling for a new normal when it comes to following Him. It's a new normal for revolutionaries: Trust God.

Galatians 2:20 –

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

This scripture talks about one way of living dying and a new way of living coming to light!

Have you ever seen the NBA draft? There are usually several stories of young men who came from poor backgrounds and hard situations who had their lives completely transformed by hearing they made an NBA team.

One-second the life they lived was struggles and difficulties. It was pain and suffering. After signing that paper the life they NOW LIVE is completely different from the one they lived before.

When we accept Christ, there is a new possible way to live life: **through FAITH!**

“Faith” has become this word that only church people use... and usually, we don’t even use it properly.

We SAY faith, but we really mean “we kinda hope.”

“Well, I’m stayin in faith that God will provide rent this month.”

“Well, I’ve tried everything, but I just have to have faith that healing will come.”

“God, I am standing in faith that Beyonce will be single again and marry me...”

FAITH IS FULLY RELYING AND TRUSTING ON GOD!

Do you trust God FULLY with EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE? Or do you give God little opportunities to show magic tricks at a weekly party? (some of us call it church)

The first step every revolutionary makes is the decision to fully trust God with their WHOLE LIFE!

There is a man in the old testament that exemplifies all of these steps in his life to a great degree. He is one of the greatest revolutionaries of the Old Testament named Abram. We’ll call him Abe.

Abe’s dad didn’t worship God, none of his family worshipped God and it seemed like Abe didn’t really have a desire in him to do so either.

Abe was comfortable where he was at and was living a good life. Then God came calling.

“Abe, you need to leave your crazy family and start walking. I’ll eventually show you where to go. It’s gonna be awesome!” (this is the Matthew Tarkington translation of Genesis 12:1-3)

Abe’s response?

“Okay.”

Wait. Let’s put this in perspective.

Here’s God, speaking to you:

“Hello [insert your name]. I want you to pack up everything, empty your bank account, and rent a moving van. Start driving down the road, then I’ll tell you where you should be going.”

Yep. It was that crazy.

As crazy as it sounds, Abe was willing to fully trust and rely on God.

Let’s just be honest with ourselves. Do we trust light bulbs, car ignitions and old broken couches more than we fully rely on God and His promises?

Without living out this type of faith, we can't REALLY call ourselves FOLLOWERS of Christ. We are just believers, country club members, fans, hobbyists, and everyday nobodies.

Hebrews 11:6a-

"Without faith it is impossible to please God"

Hebrews 10:38 –

"Now the just shall LIVE BY FAITH: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

To **LIVE** by faith means everything in life is about this!

To **LIVE** by faith means it's how we do everything!

"So...how do I learn to trust God more?...
How do I take the first step to being a revolutionary?"

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

"And such trust have we through Christ to Godward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth , but the spirit giveth life ."

Many times we focus on our own ability over God's. We try to make up plan B in our heads when God told us plan A.

"Well, if God doesn't show up... I could always do this."

That's not trust.

The scripture above says we believe that WE CAN'T DO IT! So we instead trust God THROUGH CHRIST!

God wants to use you to do amazing things... however, He gives you the choices:

- *To trust Him or trust your mind.*
- *To trust Him or trust how it's always been done.*
- *To trust Him or trust how you were taught.*
- *To trust Him or trust what others are saying.*
- *To trust Him or trust what looks like the safe route.*

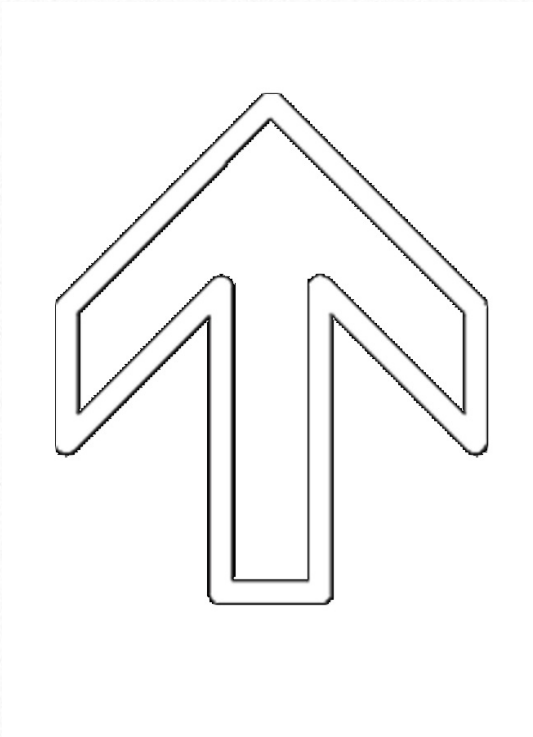
Pray this today:

Father, give me opportunities this week to FULLY trust You. Lead me down paths of life where my only option is to follow You or fail. Use me to be a revolutionary, to change my world, to change my community, to change my family and to change my life. I'm ready to live a life of adventure! I'm ready to fully follow You!

2

Trust God - “Big Buts”

“He that is good for making
excuses is seldom good
for anything else.”
– Benjamin Franklin



“Big Buts”

At one church I worked at there was a hidden crack in the pavement.

It was difficult to see, and even though I worked there for some time, it seemed almost every week I would trip over it and stumble my way to the next door, trying to get steady again.

There are stumbling blocks that are set up for us when we make the decision to FULLY trust God with our future and our lives. Some of those are difficulties, pressures and stresses that the enemy tries to bring into our life to get our mind off of the big picture.

One of the greatest stumbling blocks is one we generally set up for ourselves. It comes out of our mouth and is put directly in front of our feet...

It's the word “but”.

I can imagine how frustrated God gets when
we stick our “but” into God’s business.

However, isn’t that the first thing that generally comes out of our mouth when we allow our brain to comprehend what God just asked us to do?

“Yes Lord, I’ll do it..... But what about... ”

But what if...”

But how will...”

I fully believe that most people are worst-case-scenario type thinkers. (I know I have the potential to be one.) Instead of trusting that God has a wonderful plan for us we think it's much more practical to think about how horrible things could possibly get and we still survive.

Here is the general issue. We want to trust God with our **MINDS**, not our spirit.

We have been trained and taught to trust what our mind says is true and accurate.

One thing is true. We all have “buts” that we can use to talk our minds out of fully trusting God to use us to be revolutionaries.

Some of us have small buts, and some of us have some really BIG buts.

The Bible has a great example of a man who tried to talk himself out of trusting God with numerous buts. His name was Moses, but we'll call him Moe.

Moe was called by God to be a revolutionary. He was called to literally change the world and history as we knew it! (as are you)

When Moe received the call from God, however, he tried to stop himself before he could ever take the first step to being a revolutionary: **TRUSTING GOD.**

We see in Exodus chapter 3, five BIG BUT'S that Moe uses to talk God and himself out of BEING A REVOLUTIONARY!

1) ***But, I'm a nobody!***

Exodus 3:11 –

“And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

When I went into ministry beyond my “circle of influence” I got nervous. I didn’t think I could get a job anywhere. After all, who’s ever heard of me outside the church I grew up in? I had no leads, no connections, no possibilities on the horizon...

Honestly, I wasn’t quite sure what I was going to do. I was always taught when it came to the “business-side” of ministry: “it’s all about who you know.”

It was definitely a BIG BUT I tried to put in front of God.

Maybe you are there too. Maybe God has placed a dream or a goal inside of you, a passion to get something done... but you have no idea how you would even get connected with people. Well, let me tell you one thing I have learned over the years:

God is in the resume building business.

In the Bible there is a story of a man named Benaiah. (You can look it up in II Samuel 23:20-23)

Benaiah was a nobody, just a regular soldier. However, as a soldier he got into some sticky situations!

He had to fight two godlike warriors from Moab, by himself.

He had to fight a GIANT Egyptian who had a spear and Benaiah had a stick!

He jumped into a pit with a lion on a snowy day to fight it!

Now, most people would think, “Man Benny, the enemy is really attacking you! I’m sorry.”
But what the enemy meant for bad, God meant for good!

The Bible says that after people heard about the things Benaiah had done he was appointed the private body guard of King David!

From a nobody to one of the most revered positions in the kingdom!

Benaiah didn’t make himself a somebody... GOD DID!

God will provide the means for you to fulfill what you are called to do!

Maybe you say “I’m a nobody” right now. But as you trust God, and overcome the struggles that try to fight against you, word will get out about how much of a somebody you are – THROUGH HIM!

2) *But, I’m not that smart –*

Exodus 3:13

“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them?”

Sometimes this feels like the most legit of excuses.

“God, I have no idea what I’m doing here...”

Honestly, I’ve learned over the years that’s a good thing.

See, the more that WE THINK we know something, when WE THINK we can figure it out, we take God out of the picture and start filling in the puzzle with our amazing intellect.

The truth is, compared to God all your knowledge means nothing. There is a reason God generally calls people who aren't that smart and connected and strong , etc., (*boy, I'm feeling a little put down now...*)

1 Corinthians 1:25 – 29

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

God wants the glory, not how cute, smart, intellectual or philosophical you are!

The good news is we can have a “knowledge-transfer” from the mind of the Holy Spirit into our mind!

John 14:26

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

What do you need to know?

Do you need to know how to network?

Do you need to know how to deal with that person?

Do you need to know how to put that paperwork together?

Do you need to know what form to use, what document to create?

The Holy Spirit can teach you ALL THINGS!

3) *But, I don't think I can do it.*

Exodus 4:1

“And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will, say The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.”

Here's that worst-case scenario mindset I talked about before.

“But God, this is what could happen. It's not going to work. I can't do it.”

Beyond “but”, “can't” is one of God's least favorite words.

When I was growing up some of my friends had a swear jar at home. If they ever said a swear word or someone in the home did they had to put money in the jar to entice them to not use that form of language.

I never had an issue with swearing, so that wasn't a need in our house... my mom went a little deeper.

She had a jar called the “Neggie-jar”.

In the case of the neggie-jar you would put money in the jar anytime you would say a NEGATIVE WORD. I ended up putting the most money in any time I said “I can’t”.

My mother would tell me not only is “I can’t” a negative word - if you believe in Christ, by saying “I can’t”, you are lying!

Phil. 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

When you don’t have the strength, you have another strength to tap into.

When you don’t have the ability, you have Christ’s ability to use!

If God said it, God will make sure you can accomplish it!

You have the goods because you have God!

4) *But, I’m not the best at this, you should choose someone else...*

Exodus 4:10

“And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”

Moses was telling what he saw about his abilities, but God knew what HE saw.

See, there is a difference between sight and vision.

Sight =

What you physically see before you in the natural. It's what is real to your senses at this present juncture.

Vision =

Seeing through God's eyes. See the impossible as possible. Seeing God's promises come to pass. Seeing through the eyes of your spirit!

God has called you to be a revolutionary. And that may mean that there are some issues, inconsistencies and physical problems you have to overcome. THAT'S OKAY! If God has called you (*and He has*) then God will provide for you!

God is a miracle-working God!

God is a powerful God!

God is a God of revolution and the FIRST revolution He does is inside of you!

Moses BECAME eloquent when he had the guts to step out and let God use him.

Moses BECAME a leader when he had the fortitude to just do what God told him.

Don't let your current sight deter you from becoming the vision that God sees!

Jeremiah 29:11 –

“For I know the thoughts [literally DREAMS and VISIONS] that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Stop being a lookey-loo, and become a visionary!

See yourself the way God sees you!

Quit making excuses and start making progress!

5) *But God, I just don't want to do this...*

Exodus 4:13

"And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send."

{Or "God, please send someone else!"}

Now we see the truth come out of Moses. The real issue he had was that he just didn't want to step out of his comfort zone. He didn't want to do something difficult. He didn't go when there was the possibility of failing.

Let's just be honest, any "BUT" we throw at God is just a very polite way of saying NO without feeling too guilty about it.

It's just a way of us trying to get out of doing something we don't want to do.

Excuses don't negate you from the calling.

Your inequalities is where God wants to show off!

Romans 11:29

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

God is not going to change His mind about you and what He has called you to do! If God called you, YOU ARE CALLED! That's it. Period.

**The good news is, no matter how big you think your “but” is -
your but isn't bigger than God's but!**

For example, when you don't think you can do what God asked you to do....

Psalms 73:26

“My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever”

When you think you've made too many mistakes to be a revolutionary...

Romans 5:7-8

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”

When you think you've been too hurt, too used, too fragile to be used...

Genesis 50:20

“You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good...”

Get over your “big buts” because God’s are always bigger!

God has called you for such a time as this,

for such a purpose as this,

for such a place as this,

for such a people as this!

Accept the call of a revolutionary and TRUST GOD! He has your back!

Pray this today:

Father, no more excuses. I’m willing to do what you have called me to do. I’m willing to be the revolutionary you have called me to be.

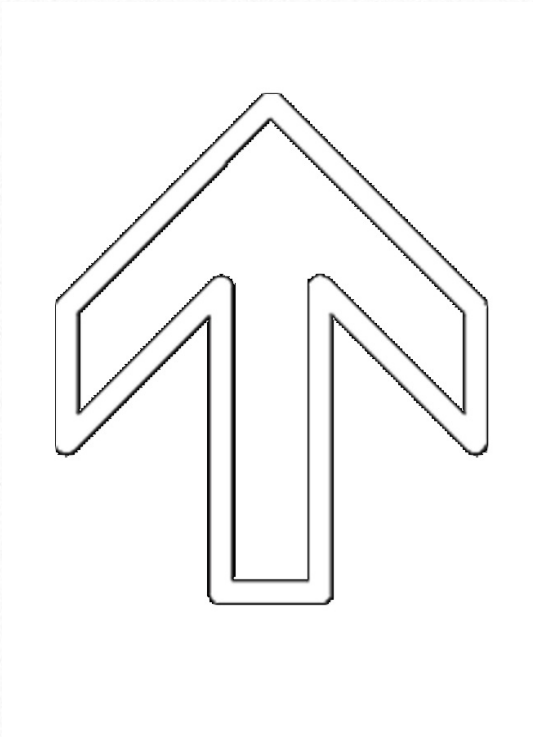
Use me, in whatever way you see fit. I’m ready Lord, send me.

3

Trust God - Adrenaline Driven Adventures

“Avoiding danger is no safer
in the long run than out-
right exposure. Life is ei-
ther a daring adventure, or
nothing.”

– Helen Keller



Adrenaline Driven Adventures

There's a game we play that is really kind of scary when you think about it.

It's unsafe and probably incredibly dangerous, yet, I think almost every child I know has played it.

My girls love it, and ask for me to play it again and again.

We end up playing it almost every day.

The game I speak of, of course, is simply throwing your children in the air.

Now, this isn't just a toss...

Daddy's are notorious for lobbing our children as high as we possibly can with incredibly speed and velocity and waiting to catch them till the last moment.

However, I have also seen kids who hate this game...

They cry uncontrollably the second after the shock sets in after the throw...

What is the distinct difference between those who love the thrill of adrenaline and those who despise it?

One word.... **Trust.**

We were built with a desire to see change, to have adventures, to seek out new ways and new ideas!

It thrills us! It excites us! It motivates us for more!

God built within our system a triangular gland that sits comfortably right on top of our kidneys – we have termed it the adrenal glad.

It releases hormones into our body when we get excited, nervous, scared, or any other heightened emotion.

Simply for the fact that God created this within us tells me something...

God created us to have adventures.

I don't just mean rock climbing, sky diving, swimming with sharks and MMA wrestling...

I mean, living a life of adventure through Him!

I love roller coasters, adventure movies, and adrenaline filled adventures; but there is one thing I really don't like – being afraid.

That's why in all the things most people love to do when it comes to adrenaline filled adventures is to still hold onto a sense of security:

- The seat-belt or buckle that holds you into the roller coaster.

- The parachute tightly fitted to your body in a sky dive.
- The safety rope in rock climbing.

What can make one persons life exciting and another's a living nightmare is all about where you seek your safety?

Just like the children being thrown in the air, it's all about **trust**.

There was a man we have discussed already in this book from the Bible who's name was Abe. He had plenty of opportunities to get frustrated and upset, to become so caught up with his issues and the stresses of this life that he would have just given up.

Instead, Abe made a decision that amidst what he COULD PERCEIVE as struggles and difficulties, he decided instead to trust God, buckle up and take the adventurous journey!

Romans 4:3

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

Abraham stepped out and said, "Okay God. Wherever you tell me to go, I know you've got my back."

That's how we are called to live life.

There's an old Doctor Seuss book that I absolutely love that is called "Oh the Places You'll Go".

It's a book of Proverbs written to a young man, walking the road of life written by one of the most creative minds of children's literature. Let me go through a few of these quotes and explain why I see them as so true.

*"You will come to a place where the streets are not marked.
Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked.
A place you could sprain both your elbow and chin!
Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?
How much can you lose? How much can you win?"*

One of the defining points of an adrenaline filled adventure is the factor that a lot of WRONG could possibly happen!

Yes, there is always that little imp "fear" creeping in the background of every adventure, trying to find your trust a little off-guard so he can pounce and defeat you!

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Yes, God put you in the midst of an adventure.

No, God did not plan on you being afraid.

When we accepted Christ God gave us a **spirit of POWER** –

What is the spirit of power? It's the power to do *WHATEVER* God has called you to do. A supernatural power to do the miraculous, to do the impossible, to do anything that is needed!

He gave us the spirit of LOVE –

We are called to love the unlovable, to love people who drive you crazy, to love those who desire to hurt you.

In the natural this is impossible. We do the exact opposite our desire is to hurt and hate these people.

But to love is to live in peace in the midst of chaos.

To love is to find your calm in the middle of life's storms!

You don't need to emotionally love out of your mind, you just need to act on it and rely on the spirit God gave you to ***love through you!***

He gave us the spirit of a SOUND MIND –

I love this one... because a sound mind to the world is not a sound mind to God. When someone says I need the sun to stand still (Joshua) the world doesn't think his mind is very "sound". When someone says I am going to believe God to walk around a wall and yell really loud and the wall will fall down doesn't seem very "sound" according to the world's standards.

A "sound mind" doesn't mean a sane mind in the world's eyes.

A "sound mind" is a mind that THINKS the way that God THINKS! No matter how crazy that may seem...

As we said before:

1 Corinthians 1:25 – 29

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

The question is really, Are you willing to be a fool in order to do what God needs you to do.

Time to be honest here...

I struggled with following and trusting God a lot, not because I didn't love Him or want to do what He asked... my biggest issue was a 5 letter monster that holds many Christians back from the adrenaline filled adventures God has desired to go on with them. That word:

P – R – I – D – E

I was concerned that I would look foolish. I was concerned that I would fail.

Sometimes I was concerned that what God told me WOULD WORK, and in the process I would still be looked at as crazy...

I have learned one very important thing through the years:

**In order to be a revolutionary,
I must be willing to be strange.**

Matthew 23:12

“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted”

Have you ever said (out-loud or in your own mind) *“God, I really don’t feel like doing it that way... I have a better idea...”*

Or *“God, I think this would work better”*

Or *“I really don’t feel like doing that right now.”*

These are all words of pride.

These are all phrases that indicate how much you care about what you look like, how people perceive you and what they think about you.

Now, I’m not saying be weird just because and live your life that way. If you do so, it becomes a part of your personality and you rely more on your own weirdness than you do on what God is asking you to do.

Just be willing to step outside of the box of your comfort zone.

Do something different when God asks you.

This concept not only revolutionized how I DID ministry, it revolutionized how I prayed, it revolutionized how I worshipped, it changed everything.

Once pride was getting out of the way, freedom to be who God created me to be and do what He called me to do came rushing into my life like a flood!

Live the life of adventure! Be bold! Be daring! Be different!

Pray this today:

Father, help me in taking down my pride. Create in me a heart that is willing to be different, to do whatever you ask me to do. Give me opportunities outside of normal this week, where I can do something crazy for You. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live this life of adventure with you as my Guide.

Embrace Change



“Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.”

– Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

“Xenophobia...”

Many people have used this phrase to talk about the fear of other races or other cultures, but frankly xenophobia is more diabolical than that.

Xenophobia is simply fear of anything that is different.

If we were really honest with ourselves, we have all dealt with xenophobic ideas.

The fear of moving to a new place,

The fear of losing someone we were close to (by death or simply moving away),

The fear of a change in routine, change of a job, change of lifestyle....

Change.

I quoted Mary Shelley at the beginning of this section. She wrote the book Frankenstein, talking about a “monster” who was feared simply because he was different.

To some of us, life is the monster.

We would be happy with it never changing from our known routine. Staying forever predictable.

Well, I’m sorry Dr. Frankenstein. Life is anything but predictable. Pull out your pitchfork and torch and try to fight it’s monstrous changes – and though you may halt it for a great while, ultimately, it will succeed in changing.

In fact, God desires change.

Many times what holds us back from living the amazing, adventure filled, revolution causing life God has called us to is that we do one of two things when change comes:

1) *We refuse change –*

We fight against it with all our power knowing for certain that God must have called us to a simple, easy life that is always predictable...

So instead of following God, much like Jonah in the Bible, we run. We try to hide. We plug our ears and close our eyes pretending that somehow our calling and purpose will just go away and we can forever live in this state of silent simplistic satisfaction.

OR

2) ***We accept change –***

Wait... isn't that good?

Well, there is a difference between accepting change and EMBRACING change.

Accepting change is generally not enthusiastic, nor is it heartfelt.

It's like accepting the fact that you have to clean your house. You don't really want to do it, and you know you won't like it, but I guess it's for the better and has to be done, so drudgingly and drearily you go about accomplishing the task at hand.

When we accept the change God gives us, we will do what we need to, but we make sure to leave our heart at home.

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” – Winston Churchill

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Revolution is God's specialty, but revolution in the world can't happen unless there is a revolution inside you first!

To see revolution happen, a revolutionary must have his/her heart changed!

A heart that is *WILLING* for adventure!

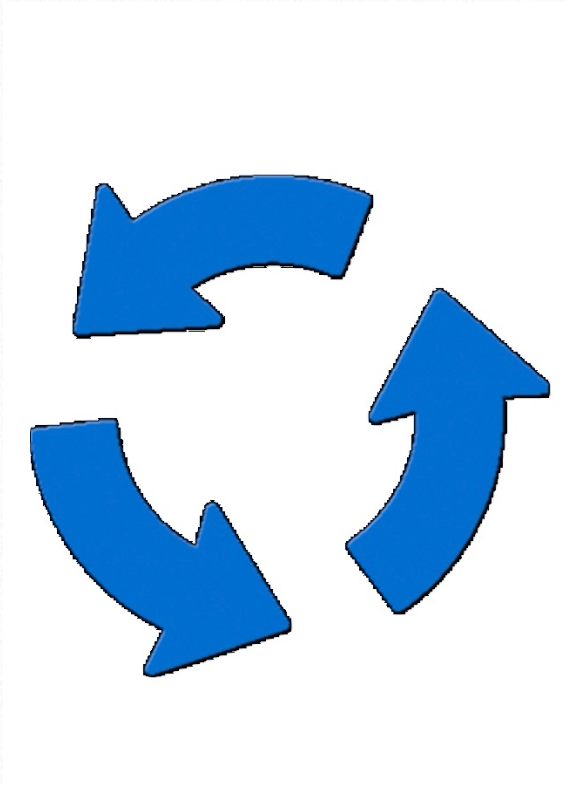
A heart that is *EXCITED* for something different!

A heart that is *READY* for change!

4

Embrace Change - Tuck and Roll

“You got to roll with the punches to get to what's real.”
– Van Halen



Tuck and Roll

When I first started in ministry as a part-time minister I was also a professional window cleaner...

... it was much more difficult than it sounds.

On a hot day near the end of the summer, while cleaning the gutters of a house (we did that too), I was sitting on a newly laid black rooftop with a very steep slant. As I put my bare hands on the rooftop I quickly pulled my hand off of it because it was hot. I soon realized that was a mistake.

I began very slowly tipping forward with nothing beside me to hold onto.

Understand, I was two and a half stories above the ground.

Scenarios in my head began to race a mile a minute. I didn't know exactly what to do, but I did see the house sat on a very steep and very large hill.

I remember the feeling of the wind blowing past my face, and my eyes nearly popping out of my head. The only thought that came to my mind was to bend my knees and getting ready to hopefully not die on the greatest tuck and roll I would have ever attempted.

And roll I did.

I was told, it was for that factor that I survived with only minor bruising. (*well, that and guardian angels!*)

In order to survive sometimes we need to stop trying to push
against a change and *roll with it!*

Romans 12:1-2 (Message Translation)

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

I love how the message puts it:

“Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.”

See, when it came to me falling, I could have tightened up, pushed against the ground, and denied that it was going to happen first. But had I done that, I would have been horribly hurt, badly bruised and unable to walk for a considerable amount of time.

Too often when it comes to changes in our lives, especially changes that God directs, we may accept it, but push against it. Stubbornly, we tighten up our hearts and our passions to go against this new move, new job, new serving opportunity, new ministry, new possibil-

ity – and then wonder why we are in so much pain when we are trying to “*do what God asked us to do*”.

We need to learn to tuck and roll.

Change is coming. You can't deny it and more that I could deny that I was about to hit that ground. It's how you will deal with the change that is the deciding factor of the quality of your life.

Life with God is much like a river.

What is in the water of the river never changes? It is still H₂O, minerals, etc. What does change is the direction or path of the river? The land around it collects the minerals, dirt and silt that the river carries and thus creates new land masses that force the river to take a new direction.

The safety and security is knowing that the ***FORCE*** of the river, what is inside of it, never changes.

God will never change. He is always for you, He will never leave you, He will never forsake you! (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:5)

But that doesn't mean that the direction you are going won't change. The river is always charting new courses, new directions, and blazing new trails!

There is an old song that I love that illustrates this point exactly, it's called “God's Unchanging Hand”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6KApfD-cl4>

“Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring,
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to Him cling.”

Here’s how you embrace change:

Hold on tight to the seat belt of your relationship with God and **DECIDE** to enjoy the ride.

God won’t change, but the ride will.

Life serving God will have loops, sharp turns, sudden stops, and fast momentum. That’s what makes this life one of adventure.

There is a story about this in **Matthew 14**

“But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.”

Talk about a life of adventure! Peter walked on water!

But Peter had to be willing to get out of the boat!

Jesus was calling him to a new way of life, a new way of doing things and Peter had to have the courage, excitement and gumption to jump out of the boat!

Will you jump out of the boat of what is normal?

Will you jump out of the boat of what you have always known?

Will you jump out of the boat of what everyone else is expecting of you?

When you know God is moving you to serve in another area, find a reason why you will **LOVE IT!**

When you know God is moving you to a different area, find a reason you are **EXCITED ABOUT IT!**

When you know God is changing your carrier or your job, find a reason to be **HAPPY ABOUT IT!**

EMBRACE the change – JUMP IN IT!

Pray this today:

Lord, I'm ready for any change you bring my way. Help me to not get caught up with the way things were, and instead help me focus on the next step you are taking me.

I'm ready to make a change,

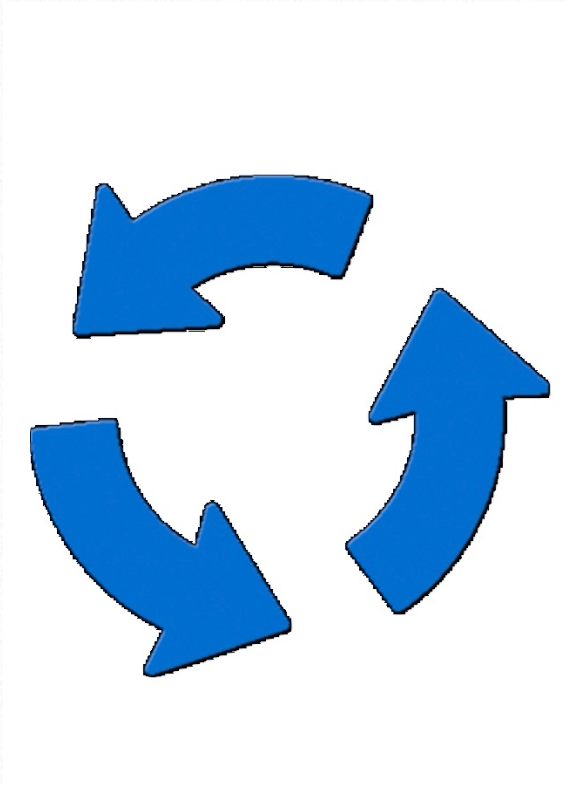
I'm ready to be the change,

So I'm ready for any change you bring my way.

5

Spiritual Puberty

“Other than dying, I think puberty is probably about as rough as it gets.”
– Rick Springfield



Spiritual Puberty

I've worked with teenagers for the vast majority of my "full-time" ministry life.

My favorite part of a teenager's life is the summer transition from 8th grade – 9th grade.

For some reason in the midst of the summer events, something amazing happened, and now the awkward, goofy, unsure-of-themselves, young person has developed a sense of understanding and a little bit of grace.

I can't tell you how many times I have heard a young man's voice lower 2 octaves within a few weeks!

We were all there once.

I remember being an awkward, short, sickly looking young teenager. Girls were frightening and amazing at the same time.

I DESIRED change! I wanted to not just be an older teenager, we all dreamed about being adults!

Now that I look back on life, I had it made as a young teenager!

I didn't have to work, I got most any food I wanted, I had a few subjects I had to study and the majority of my life revolved around hanging out and playing video games!

Maybe that's why many times Christians don't mature.

We remember what maturing in life got us: more problems, more stressors, more issues, etc.

Many Christians have lived in "spiritual adolescence" most of their lives and have never arrived to the point of "spiritual maturity".

We pretend we are grown-up, but really have never hit "spiritual puberty".

With high, winey voices we complain and ache at the fact that we have to do any chores. We get frustrated that we don't get our way, and we think only about ourselves, and how we can get rid of the acne on our faces.

The entire book of James was written as a wake up call to all Christians to have the same transition we are supposed to have in life... to grow up.

James lists many ways we are called to grow up, but we will just talk about a few of these here.

As we go through them, now is time for self examination.

What area to you need to embrace the change God is doing in you?

1. A mature Christian is positive in the middle of problems –

James 1:2 –

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.”

It’s a human tendency to want to feel upset and discouraged when trouble comes. We enjoy the emotional low for a moment.

Yes, It’s true that it may be a human tendency, but not a mature one.

As mature believers Paul tells us we need to **COUNT it ALL** joy!

To “*count*” was an accounting term. It meant to put all the numbers together and sum it up.

Many times we don’t take the time to “count” our life.

We take one loss (drastic or otherwise) and focus on it, rather than being a good accountant.

See, a good accountant sees:

- I have a job.
- I have a place to live.
- I have a family.
- I have good health.
- I have Jesus.
- I have heaven as my home.
- I have the Holy Spirit to guide and lead me.

The list goes on and on and on....

Every time your mind gets fixated on frustrations and difficulties I want you to count 5 things you are thankful for.

For every one thing you are discouraged about, frustrated about or struggling with there are *AT LEAST* 5 things you can find you are happy about!

That's "counting" it all joy!

The sum of all my life shows me that I should be happy!

I can be positive, not because of my problems, but in spite of them!

I live positive because I view everything else in my life as outweighing my struggle!

2. A mature Christian perseveres –

James 1:4 –

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

“Give up” is not in a mature Christian’s vocabulary.

2 Timothy 4:7 –

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Many people throughout history had the means to be a revolutionary but gave up too quickly!

Thomas Watson, chairman of the Board of IBM said in 1943 *“I think there is a world market for about five computers.”*

Lee de Forest, the inventor of the cathode ray tube said in 1926 *“Theoretically, television may be feasible, but I consider it an impossibility. A development which we should waste little time dreaming about.”*

Thomas Edison failed time after time trying to create the light bulb, yet continued on. When asked by a reporter how he felt he said *“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10000 ways that won’t work.”*

What is the difference between these men and Mr. Edison? These men gave up when they were on the verge of something amazing, but Mr. Edison had perseverance!

Mr. Edison is also quoted saying *“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”*

Many times we don’t realize how close we are to succeeding when we feel like giving up.

Push through and understand that growth and change often means a little pain, a little struggle, and sometimes a little sacrifice.

In the end it is always worth it!

You are not just normal – YOU ARE CALLED TO BE EXTRAORDINARY!

Embrace the change that God is doing in you and embrace the changes you need to make in order to persevere and see this next step accomplished.

3. A mature Christian loves – period. –

James 2:8-9 –

“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”

I remember once talking to a man at Starbucks about some issues he was having in life.

It was an organic conversation. It just naturally developed as I commented on how I admired some art he displayed.

All I did was listen for a while and offer some advice. He stopped me in the middle of my conversation and asked what I did for a living.

When I mentioned I was a pastor he seemed to jump back 3 feet with his eyes bugged out of his head. His response to me:

“\$^#@! You’re a pastor!”

I laughed and asked why he would respond that way.

He went on to tell me a story of how every Christian he ever knew didn’t really care. He told me stories of how Pastors told him he was going to hell, how family members wouldn’t talk to him, and how Christians he didn’t even know spoke to him in shame.

The stories broke my heart.

I explained to him that there is a difference between people who **BELIEVE** in Jesus, and people who **FOLLOW** Jesus.

I told him I was willing to pray with him and he accepted my prayer. He said he wasn't willing yet to commit to Christ and I responded, "Well, Christ has always been committed to you. When you're ready, He always is."

With tears in his eyes, he thanked me and finished with "I wish there were more people like you in the world."

It wasn't my scripture knowledge or homiletics or hermeneutics that he wished others had. It was my willingness to love him, despite his look, verbiage or demeanor.

**Jesus Himself told us that we are to be categorized
and labeled by how we LOVE OTHERS!**

John 13:35 –

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

- o Hypocrites.
- o Hate mongers.
- o Fake.

- o Selfish.
- o Arrogant.

To a hurt and unbelieving world, these are all synonyms of Christians. They will continue to believe it, until someone steps up to show them otherwise.

We can change the world NOW by simply making the decision to purposefully love people!

Mother Theresa once said *“If people do not KNOW that you love them, then you do not love them.”*

It take passionate, purposeful, heartfelt purpose to show the unbelieving world that we are here to change things.

That we are the revolutionary’s they have been looking for.

4. A mature Christian is humble –

James 4:10 –

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

I went to a small Christian school in High School, and every month we would have a “spiritual emphasis” award.

During this month a spiritual attribute would be discussed and we would cast ballots to decide who we thought in our grade was the winner of that spiritual emphasis.

Totally outnumbered by the feminine gender, Boys never won.

So we formulated a plot. Since the girls usually voted between 3 or 4 of each other, if all the boys voted on one person, we were sure to win!

Hence, I received the humility award in 11th grade.

When it was time for me to speak in class about my award, my first words were:

“Thank you. I deserve this, because I know I’m more humble than anyone else in this class.”

Yep. True humility.

Obviously this was not humility, but neither is what many Christian’s try to portray is being “humble”:

- The “I AM NOTHING” attitude.
- The “WRETCHED SINNER” ideology.

This isn’t humility. This is acknowledgement of deprivation.

**If you want to know how to be a humble Christian,
all you need to do is look to Jesus:**

Phil 2:5-7

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”

How was Jesus humble? Because even though He saw Himself as “equal with God” that didn’t mean He wouldn’t serve.

The Bible goes on in **Luke 22:27**

“For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.”

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

He talked to the untouchables,

He laid hands on those everyone ran away from,

He spoke with love to those the world was disgusted with.

If He were on this earth today physically, we would probably see Jesus sipping a latte with crooks, cheats and prostitutes! (*Matthew 9:11-12*)

He wasn't too big to find the time to play with children, and He wasn't bothered by questions.

How can you tell if you are humble?

Are you willing and ready to serve those you don't feel deserve it?

That last point brings me to the one thing that generally keeps us from embracing the change that God wants to do in us.

It is the most difficult thing to overcome in order to become mature:

Selfishness.

Phil. 2:3

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

"Nothing." That's an interesting word.

It's better that NOTHING gets done, rather than great things that have the possibility to hurt relationships.

It's better that NOTHING gets done, rather than something amazing that puffs up someone's ego.

We are called to esteem each other more than we esteem ourselves.

To "esteem" means to "Respect and admire".

The Bible doesn't tell us to "esteem" those we FEEL are deserving of it, or those we like, or those we have deduced need it.

We are to esteem *EACH OTHER*. That means everyone.

Love is not an exclusive club that only a few people can join. As mature Christians, we should be focused on loving all who we encounter.

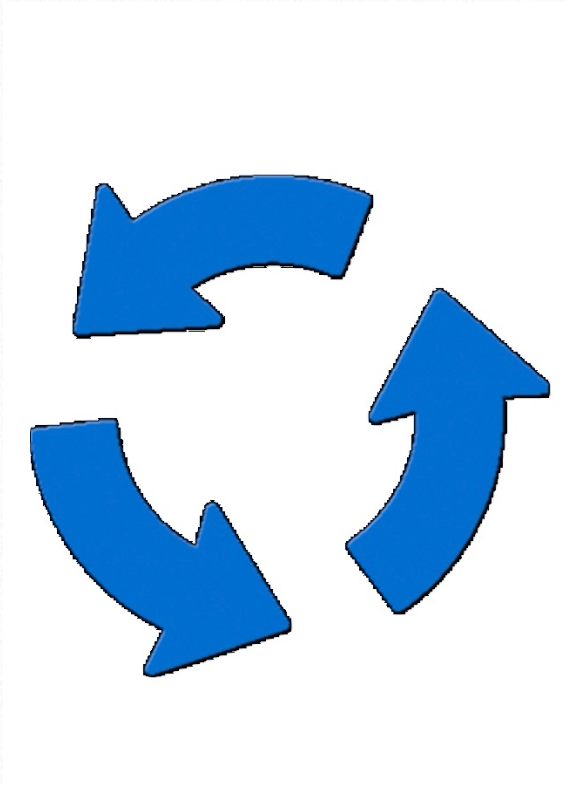
Pray this today:

Father, show me the areas in my life I need to mature in as I embrace the changes you are making in me. Give me the strength to make the changes I need to make to become the revolutionary you have called me to be.

6

Creepy Comfort

“Show me a thoroughly satisfied man – and I will show you a failure.”
– Thomas Edison



Creepy Comfort

I had a chair that my wife hated.

In it's wonderful 70's light brown fabric with well worn in cushions, it beckoned you to sit and relax and let all the stresses and worries of life seep away as you were hugged by it's armrests.

I called it my "man chair".

It was almost as if, in the man-chair, I would fall in a comatose state - sucked in by it's awesome power of comfort.

Sure, it had holes and stains and some of the edges of the metal were getting sharp, but I was able to enter into a state of I-Don't-Care nirvana when I sat in it.

Maybe you have a special chair too. A spot where all the worries and stresses of life don't matter.

It's healthy to have a place to retreat and relax. What's NOT healthy is when we strive to live life in that dormant state.

As an American, I understand we love comfort.

We will nearly kill ourselves to make ourselves more comfortable.

We are the land of the lazy-boy recliners, pizza delivery, social media and hot tubs. We will work HARD to make sure that we have those provisions on a daily basis.

Comfort isn't earned by a select few. We see comfort as a human right!

Understand, I'm not saying that owning or using any of these things are wrong, what I am saying is our dependence on comfort has the possibly of hindering what we are called to do and who we are called to be.

Again, I'm not saying we should wear sackcloth and ashes and have no possessions, what I am saying is the constant seeking after comfort and ease is... well, **CREEPY** when you think about it!

It's almost as if we are seeking after death, or would be happy with it arriving. Comfort to us means no responsibility, no movement, no struggle, no growth... just silence and calm and nothingness.

That sounds a lot like death to me!

If you are completely comfortable about what you are doing, where you are and how you are serving God than you are not fully doing what He has called you to do or becoming who He has called you to be.

“Now, hold on Pastor Matt, doesn't the Bible say that the Holy Spirit would be our COMFORTER?”

Well, yes. However, most Christians don't seek to be comforted, but to live comfortable.

To NEED to be comforted tells me that the life we are called to live is anything BUT comfortable!

Following God means constantly developing, growing, changing, moving, and facing difficulties with the strength He provides.

We see this displayed clearly in the life of Abram in the Bible.

When God called Abe to move away from his home, his family, from everything he had known and grown comfortable with in Genesis 12, that wasn't his last move.

Every time Abram pitched his tent and rested he had the opportunity to give in to the temptation to stay and get comfortable or to continue to stretch and grow beyond where God had already moved him.

Abram stops at 3 places, and I think many of us have been to those campsites numerous times as well.

The first place he pitched his tent was a land called Sichem -

It was between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim (Gen. 12:6)

In Deuteronomy 11:29 we see that God had put a blessing upon Mount Gerizim and a curse upon Mount Ebal. Even the word Ebal means barrenness.

This is where Abram found himself, between walking in the blessings of God or walking under the curse. He wasn't on one side or on the other. He found himself in the place of in-between. He wasn't ALL IN to the things of God yet.

He was starting to serve God, to follow God, but it wasn't a FULL-TIME thing. He was seeing trickles of God's goodness, but wasn't really seeing fruit come from what he was doing for God.

We have all been there once or twice in our lives.

The valley of indecision.

A middle of the road type place where we know we have to make a decision, but the decision doesn't come easy. It's uncomfortable, makes us uneasy, as most changes do.

Fully following God and going forward in your calling means changing things. It means letting go of some things we have held onto for a long time. It means sacrifice.

It's in the place of in-between that God, in His grace, builds a dream inside of Abram to believe for more for his life, more for what God had called him to do and who God had called him to be.

Abram sees that his legacy would be greater than what he was leaving. He knew the best decision for his life was to follow God and the dream that God had birthed within him. No matter what changes that may mean.

The Second place Abe pitches his tent was between Bethel and Hai. (Gen. 12:8)

Bethel is the house of God and Hai is ruins.

Here's Abe at the crossroads of another decision. Which way will he decide to go?

Those ruins represented an old regime, an old way of doing things, the old Abram.

After you make the decision to follow God and the dream God birthed within you, you also have the opportunity to make a commitment to being in the house of God and serving God, or to go back to the ruins of the old life, or the old way.

Abram had to make a decision to embrace the change of lifestyle. No more in-betweens, no more half way. I'm making a full change. I'm living a new life.

I will be found in the house of God!

And as he is pressing forward....

A FAMINE hits the land!

What??!!

Where did that come from? I mean, he was serving God, he was moving forward despite all the opportunities he had to sit down or turn back, and now there is a famine?

So what does Abe do?

He moves to Egypt.

Egypt represents the “world’s way” of doing things. It is what the world sees as acceptable.

The second Abe has a problem, he doesn't just take a step back, he runs all the way back to the world.

When you have made the decision to live the life of a revolutionary and trouble comes your way are you going to continue to live out the change you have committed to or will you find yourself trying to go back to that relationship, back to that friendship, back to the substance, back to the lifestyle?

Abram found himself in trouble in Egypt, and needed to get out. What takes him only after this major mistake to realize is there was something with him the entire time that was keeping him from making the necessary changes God desired Him to make:

His nephew Lot.

See, Lot loved Egypt. He loved the world's way. He liked how Egyptians partied, he liked the food, he liked the way they wore their hair. He had "I'd rather be in Egypt" T-shirts. He was an Egypt fan! I wonder if Abram had a lot of prompting to go back to Egypt by whispers from his nephew Lot.

I also think Abram knew that Lot was a problem.

He had to make the decision of making a major change in his life by losing his friendship to moving forward, or keeping this unhealthy relationship and staying where he was.

As we all focus on embracing the changes that God has put in the path of our life, many times we have the same option Abram had set before us.

The option to get rid of unhealthy relationships.

Once Abram followed God in leaving Lot we see God fills Abe with a dream again. One last push to accomplish all he was called to do.

The third step that Abe found himself was in the plain of Mamre in Hebron. (Gen. 13:18)

Mamre means strength or firmness.

Hebron means an association or alliance.

Once Abe decided to fully serve God, to head to the house of God and to leave the unhealthy friendships behind he found himself in a place of “strength by association”.

Because he knew God was with him, Abram was willing to embrace even difficult changes, knowing that God had his back!

Change is not necessarily easy, but change is necessary.

Embracing change is all about making the decision to love the life of adventure that God is calling you to.

Find the adventure in the change!

Find the positive in the change!

Find the love for the change!

Embrace adventure.

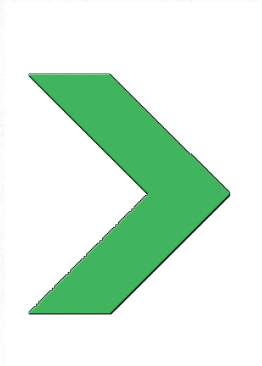
Embrace change.

Embrace life.

Pray this today -

God, help me to learn that my goal is not to live comfortably, but to live to please you. Show me the areas I have sacrificed following you for my own comfort, and show me what You desire me to sacrifice in order to live the uncomfortable but fulfilling life of adventure where You will comfort me.

Move Forward at Any Cost



“If everyone is moving forward together, than success takes care of itself.”

—Henry Ford

In 1591 Cortez landed in Mexico with the plan to take the great treasure the Aztecs had in their possession. With only 500 men, Cortez planned on defeating a strange and powerful warrior nation that had been unconquerable for six centuries. His men figured they had no option but to succeed. Why?

His three word command when they arrived on shore:

“Burn the ships”.

Many of his men protested against the idea. This was their only way back home!

“Burn the ships” he said again. “If we go home, we will go home in their ships!”

He told his men, there was no option for failure, no turning back. They were to move forward in their plan at any cost.

Their cost? The option of retreat.

The knights of the temple of Solomon likewise had a code for someone who joined their brotherhood. A knight would “never turn the back upon a foe”. If this were to happen you had a choice between one of two consequences. One, to be killed. Two, to have all your belongings taken from you and to walk naked and ashamed out of the castle forbidden to ever enter in again.

As a knight you were to go forward at any cost.

Similarly, there are always “costs” involved when moving forward and following God.

Sometimes your personal preferences or comfort is sacrificed, many times financial security (in the natural) seems to be taken away, and even sometimes family and friends are far away from you.

The cost, however, is never greater than the call.

You have been called to do amazing things! You have been called to make a change! You have been called to BE a revolutionary!

God will bless you above and beyond the initial cost of the call.

Jesus even promises in **Mark 10:29-30**

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But

he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Now, in this time! This isn't when we get to heaven, it's things we get to enjoy NOW!

First, however, we need to be willing to move forward and sometimes sacrifice, God will more than make it up to you with the **HUNDREDFOLD** return!

However those blessings don't just come without struggle.

They Bible says they come “WITH PERSECUTION”.

People of God who make a difference are people who have made the decision to move forward at any cost.

They are doggedly determined that nothing will stand in my way of accomplishing what God put me on this earth to do!

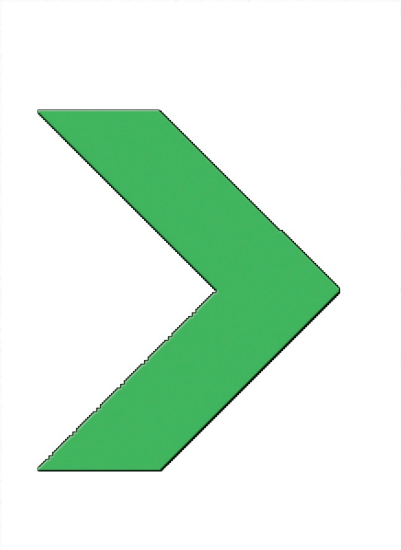
I am moving forward and nothing is going to stop me!

I am a revolutionary – And I will always move forward.

7

Move By Waiting

“Time stays long enough for
anyone who will use it.”
– *Leonardo Da Vinci*



Move By Waiting

Life is, in essence, a series of ascending and descending steps that we make the choice to take.

Many times we find ourselves falling down the proverbial stairs as we try to jump into something lofty.

Until you finish the first step, however, you don't make it up to the next step.

When my second daughter Lillian was learning to make her way up and down stairs, she would often decide that most of the steps were unnecessary and would try to skip over a step with her little legs and end up falling. I don't even remember how many times it happened.

It then became a phrase in our house that you would hear my wife or I yelling to our daughter as she was ascending or descending:

“NO SKIPPING STEPS!”

There was a short season of my life that I was in transition between ministry jobs.

I'm not going to lie, it was frustrating.

I knew I was called, I knew I was anointed and yet, here I was... a window washer.

I wasn't sure if I should quit, if I should stay, or even if I should give up trying for ministry and just make a career of this. It was a season where I was able to question everything I had taken for granted. It was a time of testing where I had to really seek God on my purpose and calling.

I viewed my job as a hindrance. It was something that was just paying the bills and held me back from accomplishing all I needed to do. I mean **OBVIOUSLY** God didn't call me to be a WINDOW WASHER... right?

I couldn't have been more wrong.

See, at this business there were several guys that looked to me for guidance. I prayed with them, I taught them the Word, but never thought anything of it.

I clearly remember one early morning, I had sat in the bed of one of the trucks as the rest of the guys all flipped over their gall water buckets and sat down around me, listening to what I was talking about.

It was in that moment that I understood what I was doing was discipleship. I was sharing life with these men and God had placed me there, not just for me – but for them.

This wasn't just a job... this was a step into furthering my calling.

I knew I still had a purpose in ministry, and window washing was not the move I had been waiting for, but I now saw the **PURPOSE** in this step.

As you are waiting for the fulfillment of your ultimate calling nothing will hinder you more than sitting around twiddling your thumbs.

This is the time to do all you can, as best you can, where you are!

Because until you finish this step, you don't make it up to the next step.

There are no “skipping steps” when it comes to your calling.

Maybe you feel the same way I felt.

Have you ever been at a place in your life where you felt like you were stuck WAITING for the next step, the next stage, the next move, etc?

This is much like the disciples in the beginning of the book of Acts.

Jesus had just ascended into heaven after 40 days of walking amongst the people showing them amazing supernatural displays and miracles.

Now instead of miracles and signs and wonders, seeing Jesus walk through walls etc. – they are left with just themselves... in a big room.

Jesus tells them before He leaves “Tarry ye in Jerusalem.”

Basically, just wait there – cause eventually I have the next step for you called the Holy Ghost. No timeline, no more steps given. One step, go to Jerusalem and wait.

I wonder if the disciples thought the Holy Spirit was going to come on them within the hour, or maybe the first day, or the third prayer...

Most theologians believe it was at least a week that they waited in this “upper room”. I’m sure after about the third day, people are probably getting ancy.

Sometimes I think Christians get this idea that all the disciples did for the entire week is sit in that upper room and pray day and night – waiting for the next step.

I think the disciples teach us some important things about how to wait while moving forward!

Yes. In the midst of your waiting, you can still be moving forward in the plan God has for your life!

What did the disciples do in order to move while waiting?

1) *They positioned themselves to go to the next step (Acts 1:12) –*

They knew that they needed to be in Jerusalem, so they put themselves in a position to go to the next step the moment the opportunity arrived.

If you feel you are called to be a missionary, but haven't arrived to that step of total fulfillment yet, put yourself around other missionaries! Volunteer and pay to do a missionary journey. Find a way to get yourself in a position to go to that next step when God calls.

If you feel you are called to be an actor or a movie director, find people in that career and **POSITION** yourself to be in a place where you can receive that next step from God.

If you feel a call to pastor, serve in your church! Bless the pastor and receive from the gifting that are on his life.

Even though you are not "in that step of fulfillment" yet, you can follow God and get into a position where you are prepared and ready to receive when the fulfillment comes.

2) *They prayed (Acts 1:14)* –

Bishop Butler, my pastor, has always said *"Every success is a prayer success first."*

As you are in the process of moving forward in your life, don't get so caught up in the daily to-do's of your next step that you neglect your time with God.

It's HIM who put those steps before you in the first place.

Prayer does several things for you as you move by waiting.

Prayer releases you from worry.

Phil. 4:6 – 7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

I'm an analytical person. I usually try to figure things out how puzzle pieces of life fit together in my mind before I seek God for an answer. It's something I have been working on for years, and I'm working at getting better.

Often I take the worries and cares with me as my mind tries to comprehend where the next step will be and how to get there. That stress takes over my body, it takes over my mind and steals my strength.

In this verse the Bible says in EVERYTHING we do, as we pray and thank God there is a peace that comes.

This is a peace we can't understand. It's a peace that we can tap into when everything in our minds tells us we SHOULDN'T be in peace.

It's a peace that guards your heart and your mind from any of the un-peaceful stressors or worries that may try to come occupy it.

When we pray we get more than the answer to our prayers. We get peace.

Prayer changes your attitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

"Pray without ceasing"

When I was younger this brought to my mind a man who was literally on his knees, never eating, in constant venerable position towards God.

That's not what this verse discusses at all.

Prayer is simply conversation with God.

A few years back I stopped saying "Amen" after I prayed. Not that I am against saying amen, but I realized something.

When I said "amen" I wasn't really meaning "so let it be done", I was meaning "the end".

It was my "okay, let's finish the conversation now" word.

Praying **ALWAYS** means that we are in constant communication to God! When I wake up in the morning I start our conversation, and that conversation doesn't end till I hit the pillow at night.

It's the mindset that God is ever present and ever wanting to continue where you just left off.

God wants to be with you in the drive thru, as you walk the halls, sit at your desk and sit in rush hour traffic.

This scripture shows us that when we have such an open communication with God we have the potential to be able to GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING!

I don't know about you... but in the natural I have a hard time giving thanks during EVERYTHING...

I mean "everything" is a little all-encompassing.

"Everything" kind of means... well, everything.

When I've been wrongfully hurt.

When I've been wrongfully accused.

When life has seemed unfair.

The scripture says, in the midst of everything, I should be able to find some areas in my life I can give God thanks for.

When we have a constant communication with God it changes our attitudes.

We can give thanks because just BEING with God brings out the thankful attitude in us.

Many times when we pray for things to change, what God changes FIRST is our attitude.

Prayer changes situations.

Matthew 21:22

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

When you pray and have faith, things change!

Even TIME itself can change.

There is a story in Joshua chapter 10 where Joshua asks for the “sun to stand still” – more literally for the earth to NOT MOVE!

God honored his prayer and his faith and literally made time stand still for Joshua!

If He can make time stand still He can also speed it up!

Prayer changes things!

3) *They studied the Word –*

Acts 1:15-16

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”

This scripture says that Peter, while looking at the Bible, pointed out a particular scripture that all could see. They were purposed in studying the scripture.

During this process of waiting, it's important to get into God's Word.

As you do, you will find promises God has put in His Word about your life and your next stages and steps you are going to take!

While you wait, prepare to go forward!

4) *They worked where they were at! -*

Acts 1:21-26 –

God will work the miraculous when you are willing to step out in faith and DO!

Jesus at the marriage celebration of Cana told the servants who were just standing there to fill the water pots.

In doing so Jesus stepped into his full-time ministry with this being His first miracle!

Jesus told the apostles when they were sitting around frustrated to put their nets in the water. DO SOMETHING while waiting!

In doing so they stepped into the next step of becoming full-time followers of Jesus!

Many times it's when you step out and do something where God has placed you, you will see the next step becoming even more clear.

There is something for you to DO right now!

As you wait for the next door to be opened, keep moving forward!

As you wait for the next step to be seen, keep doing!

God has not called you to sit around and wait, he's called you to wait and MOVE!

Pray this today –

Lord, while I wait for the next step, give me opportunities to serve with my whole heart.

Open doors for me during this time to put myself into positions you choose and lead me to where the gifts and talents you've put inside of me can be put to the best use.

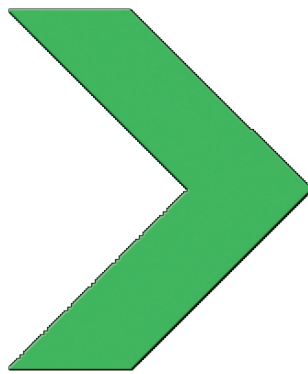
I will not stop moving while I am waiting.

8

MOVE ON!

“You must make a decision that you are going to move on. It won't happen automatically. You will have to rise up and say, ‘I don't care how hard this is, I don't care how disappointed I am, I'm not going to let this get the best of me. I'm moving on with my life.’”

– Joel Osteen



MOVE ON!

I have had several moves in my life, but I have learned that it generally takes me a few months to truly have moved.

I don't mean unpacking boxes (although that's true too), what I mean is the full move of your heart and your mind.

It's one thing leaving physically, it's taking your heart and your mind with you that's the real difficult part.

During our first move across country, we accepted a job at a church in California. That first Sunday I was assigned to "welcome" all first time visitors at the church. Of course I very professionally welcomed everyone to our church ... of course when doing so I had welcomed them all to the church I had left in Michigan, the people were horrified.

After we moved back to Michigan, I made sure to tell everyone I was a Californian and that wasn't going to change.

When I moved to Texas, many of our Michigan ways still stayed with us.

Many of the ministries I helped begin, I tried to stay connected with over the years. I have tried to find out how they were doing, even though I had no control over them.

It's a human tendency to fight against moving forward. To walk in one direction, while our eyes are constantly looking back.

I have learned that the best thing to do when it's time to move on, is to FULLY move on.

There's a warning story about this in **Genesis 19**.

Lot and his family were told by God to move out of their city because it was a sinful place. Now, obviously Lot and his family seemed okay with the city, because they didn't want to leave.

God tells Lot the city is about to be destroyed, and tells him that He will spare just his family's lives, but they had to follow His specific instructions to do so.

Genesis 19:17

"And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

Don't look behind you.

However, I think this command meant more than just physically. God was telling them to not look back with their heart or their mind either.

Genesis 19:26

"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

In one of the most shocking, sci-fi like happenings of the Bible, Lot's wife in the midst of her desire to see her sinful city one last time is instantly turned into solid salt.

Every time I hear or read this story I think, “Why would Lot’s wife do such a thing?”

I mean, I get that you want to look back, but God warned you. And He’s about to bring fire and brimstone down on the city like a monsoon! Don’t look back for goodness sakes!

Maybe she didn’t believe it was really happening...

This was all so sudden! So unexpected! Maybe it was only unexpected because her personal faith had been so hindered by contamination from her love of the unbelieving world.

In the same way, sometimes we can convince ourselves against the plan of God. We grieve the Holy Spirit by **DECIDING** to not pay attention to His leading.

Ephesians 4:30

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

The Bible warns that too much of quieting the leading of the Holy Spirit has the possibility to cause us to no longer hear from Him!

1 Timothy 4:1-3

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their **conscience seared** with a hot iron.”*

This “searing” is referring to cauterization.

In the act of cauterization, nerve endings are burned in order to stop feeling in that area all together.

When we stop paying attention to the guiding and directions of the Holy Spirit, the “feeling” of that leading is numbed. His voice is silenced.

*Maybe she didn't think God was really **SERIOUS** about what He said...*

Matthew 4:4 -

*“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

It's important that Jesus didn't say “every important word” or “every word that you like” or even “every word that you have heard preached”... Nope. It's **EVERY WORD!**

If God is serious enough to say it, God is serious enough to do it.

When God speaks in His Word, or God speaks into your heart it's important to take note and take it seriously!

I once had God speak to my heart that I needed to drink more water.

Not some deep revelation or theological concept.

“Drink more water.”

Now, I could have dismissed it. I could have convinced myself that it was just me. But inside, I knew it was God.

I took the word seriously.

I got myself a venti sized Starbucks water cup and have made it a point to drink more ever since.

Just because it seems simple or even silly doesn't mean that we shouldn't pay close attention and take every word God says as grave importance.

Sadly, we do this often:

- Does God REALLY mean for me to go to church every Sunday?
- Does God REALLY mean I need to pray constantly?
- Does God REALLY mean I am called to tell others about Him?
- Does God REALLY mean it when He told me to change professions, jobs, locations?

Is God really serious?

If God said it, God is serious about it.

Maybe the world's way had such a tight grip on her, she couldn't let go.

Maybe she was so connected and so involved that she refused to let go with her heart and her mind.

See, I don't believe what Lot's wife did was just a glance, or an over the shoulder peek-type accident. Her heart was still connected to where God had called her to move from.

To the old way.

To how things used to be.

Sometimes I think we can empathize with Lot's wife.

Sure, Sodom was a horrible place... but it was home.

How many times do we want to say:

“YES GOD, I’ll follow you... as long as it doesn’t mean I have to leave here...”

Luke 9:62 -

“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Jesus tells us one of the prerequisites to being used in the kingdom of God is moving forward with all your heart. It’s a reoccurring theme throughout the Bible, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation.

Move forward - No looking back!

Consider the people of Israel as well.

Immediately following their captivity from Egypt, every time God wanted to stretch them and move them forward all they did was complain about how they had it better “in the old country”, doing things “the old way”.

After their freedom they were called by God to miraculously follow a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. How amazing does that sound?!

So what about when the cloud and the pillar left?

Now left with just a leader, a bunch of sand, and the constant thought about the “good old days” when we had clouds and fire.

Even when they finally saw the promised land, they were so concerned of the struggles that would come with the new change that they instead chose to wander the desert (what they knew) until they died.

Can you see yourself in their shoes, doing the same thing?

When God asks you to move forward what is holding you back?

Hebrews 12:1-2

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth **so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

This verse doesn't say that weights are sins, but that weights act the SAME as sins - holding us back from going forward as we run the race of life!

Those weights are things that keep you from moving on...

Weights can consist of:

- A way of doing things
- A cultural comfort
- Your role in the church
- Your role in your job

What if God has called you to more in life - TO A GREAT LIFE - but what was holding you back from MORE are the weights of “good enough”.

The greatest enemy to a GREAT LIFE in God is settling for “good enough”.

What are you willing to “lay aside” to live the life of adventure God has called you to?

What are you willing to let go of to move forward in your calling?

What are you willing to put down to become the revolutionary you were created to be?

Pray this:

God, help me to learn to let go of the past. Past emotions, past ideas, past ways of doing things.

Help me to learn how to move on fully when you say it's time to move.

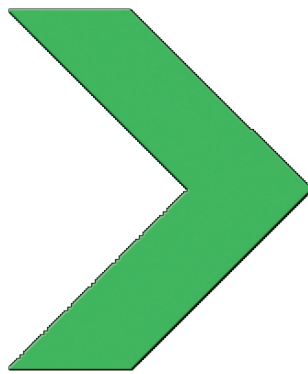
I'm ready to do put my whole heart and my whole mind into the next step of our adventure together.

9

MOMENTUM

**“It is not of importance
where we stand, but in
what direction we are mov-
ing.”**

– Author Unknown



MOMENTUM

I'm not a big sports fan admittedly.

Many times I couldn't tell you the difference between a touchdown and icing.

I do love the pageantry, drama and science behind sports though.

As I have strived to understand different types of games, one thing is for certain about every type of game you watch -

It is impossible for a team to win without the power of momentum.

In sports, momentum gives you the ability to run over any obstacles, defeat enemies in your way and feel like they were all nothing.

Years ago, I studied karate. As I progressed in it I learned how to break boards. The main thing I was taught when learning this skill was to not look at the front of the board as your ending point, you want to see yourself hitting a foot beyond the board or brick. It was the momentum of your fist that broke through that board like nothing.

In science we understand that because of momentum the planets stay in their orbit and the water in the oceans continues to move.

Ants use momentum to build vast kingdoms and empires!

Momentum is not necessary to survive, but it IS necessary to THRIVE!

Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines momentum as:

“strength or force gained by motion”.

Running with your trust in God, causes momentum to thrive.

Momentum causes you to be able to embrace change quickly.

Momentum is moving forward despite issues, despite your mistakes, despite your inabilities.

Momentum is moving forward no matter what!

The Bible outlines several ways for us to live a life of momentum.

1. Momentum comes from creating forward motion –

Hebrews 12:1-

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us....”

This verse in Hebrews tells us that momentum comes when we lay aside our weights and sins and run with patience!

Living a life of momentum is not a sprinting race.

Momentum is about endurance.

It doesn't matter if you have been saved for 50 years or you just got saved today, the most important thing for you to do is to start making steps in the right direction.

This doesn't mean that you won't trip, or that obstacles or difficulties won't come your way. What momentum means is that you will blow through those obstacles or you will regain your balance from tripping and won't fall!

You have been empowered to endure difficulties and keep moving forward!

Colossians 1:11

"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"

This verse in Colossians tells us that we have a supernatural power to **KEEP GOING WITH JOY!**

When difficult circumstances come against you, you can tap into the supernatural power within you to continue moving forward with joy!

I have made some big mistakes in my life, and I have had my fair share of obstacles that tried to derail me from accomplishing my purpose.

Honestly, when I look back at my life I see opportunity after opportunity for me to have quit doing what I am called to do and to allow confusion, complaining, criticism or confrontation to stop my forward momentum.

Have I fully arrived yet?

Nope.

I still have a lot to do to fulfill all of my calling.

So I press forward. I keep advancing.

Don't stop, slow down or give up! Find opportunities and areas you can use the gifts and callings God has given you and keep MOVING FORWARD!

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

James 1:12-14

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”

God doesn't bring struggles, but He does promise us that struggles will come.

It's in the midst of those struggles that you decide to go forward or to stop your momentum.

As you start taking steps towards God and His calling in your life, you need to make the decision to not sit down, to not slow down, but to KEEP MOVING FORWARD!

2. Momentum comes from a succession of small victories –

1 Corinthians 10:31 –

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

I love this verse. It’s something that has baffled me for a while. How can I eat to the glory of God or drink?

Then it says something even deeper: “whatever you do”

How can I clean my house to the glory of God?

How can I put gas in my car to the glory of God?

How can I flip burgers for the glory of God?

There is a way for you to do everything with excellence in order to point the world to Him!

Yes. Even cleaning your house.

It’s in the small victories that we show His glory that momentum gains speed.

Every success helps us gain stamina and confidence for the next challenge and the next step!

My mother always told people who were believing for something huge from God:

“How can you believe God to cure you of cancer and you never believed Him to cure a headache?”

It’s important to believe for small victories on your way to see a **GIANT SIZED** victory.

Take for example the story of David.

Dave was a shepherd boy who one day faced a real life giant that wanted to kill him.

If that’s all there was to the story, Dave probably would have ran, or been killed on the spot. But there is a backstory here.

Dave believed in God and had already seen several miracles in his own life where God had seen him through!

When asked how he thinks he can defeat a giant, Dave states:

“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.” - 1 Samuel 17:34-36

Dave was saying, because of my past victories, I know I have the courage to face this challenge and I know I have a supernatural strength needed to get the job done!

What is your lion?

What is your bear?

What simple day to day victories can you celebrate in when you acknowledge that God has helped you and seen you through?

Acknowledge the victories and advance!

3. Momentum comes from keeping your eyes on the right thing –

When running a race, running for a touchdown, or throwing a punch you don't look at the next two steps in front of you. Instead, your focus is far down the road, it's clear to the other side, it's on the other side of your foe's face!

Many times we slow down in our progress because we have been so focused on the next two steps that when they are accomplished we feel like we should just sit down. Accomplished and drained, our momentum is spent.

So then where should our focus lie?

Hebrews 12:2a –

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus...”

That word “fixing” literal is an active word that means “to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something.”

When we FIX our eyes on Jesus and His plan for our lives, we run the risk of giving up our own dreams and plans, wants and desires to fully dedicate our VISION to Him and His way.

Are you willing to give up comfort, selfish dreams and desires to keep your eyes fully devoted to Him.

In a race, runners look beyond the finish line. They know they cannot stop at the ribbon or the race will not be finished. They must continue to move forward, continue to push, continue to strive for more.

I think the Apostle Paul understood this as he wrote this passage in the book of Philippians.

Phil 3:12-14

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 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, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

“I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.” **MSG**

Paul says “I reach after Christ just as Christ reached after me, I don’t know everything, but this I do know...”

He then describes a Roman race. The word “press toward the mark” literally is the idea of someone pressing toward a finish line, head forward, arms behind, feet pressing hard against the ground moving forward as fast as they possibly can.

How does he run the race of life like that?

He forgets things behind him. He forgets the issues that happened yesterday. He forgets how he was hurt last week. He forgets anything behind him, because he knows looking back is only going to slow him down from a life of momentum!

“I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.”

4) Momentum can go two different directions -

Ephesians 4:14-16

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

There is the potential to be “carried away” or have negative momentum, because of an incorrect view of God or God’s future for you (wind of doctrine), by words people say to you against you or your future (sleight of men), and lies spoken against God and His Word (cunning craftiness).

I’ve seen people in my life get caught up in negative momentum.

I’ve seen people fall away from God after years of positive momentum.

All it took was too much focus on the wrong thing.

In this race of life it is possible to trip and keep running. But it is also possible to trip, fall flat on your face, and give up the race.

The direction momentum goes is up to you.

God wants to use you, to grow you, to increase you, and use you to cause revolution!

The truth is, not every person who loves God lives the life of a revolutionary.

You are the revolutionary.

Pray this –

God. Help me today to focus on You alone. Show me how to glorify You in every small task that I do, and every large battle I face. Give me the strength and the knowledge to keep moving forward, to keep pressing towards You and seeing you work with me to cause revolution in this world.



Jesus' focus throughout the Gospels was on ***“the Kingdom of God”***.

In fact, in the scripture that is commonly known as the Lord's prayer – a prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray at the time – Jesus uses this phrase:

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” - **Matthew 6:10**

God wants His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Is there sickness in heaven?

Is there lack?

Is there prejudice?

Is there injustice?

Wherever those things still exist on earth, God's will has not yet been accomplished, and the kingdom still needs to be advanced.

The kingdom of God advances because of revolutionaries daring enough to step out.

Daring enough to speak unpopular word.

Daring enough to do unpopular acts.

Daring enough to be unpopular.

Will you accept the call?

Will you trust God fully, with your whole heart and your whole life?

Will you embrace change God is doing within you, and change He brings that may seem uncomfortable to your flesh?

Will you make the decision to move forward no matter what it costs you? Will you live a life of momentum, growing in God and advancing His kingdom?

Congratulations revolutionaries.

The world has been waiting for you.

Make change.

Speak change.

Be the change.

This is the Revolutionaries way.