

## Moving Forward

Text: Job 42:12a Exodus 14:13-16a 2 Timothy 1:7

### Introduction: I Want To Ask A Question?

As believers can we **change completely**, **NOT** improve, **but** a **wholesale redefinition** of who we are? Can we make a total course correction so that we can follow **a path** and pursue **a destiny** we haven't **even considered**? Can we have a Job like "**do-over**" experience; where after disaster struck Job; Job's second half of life was better than his first?

God wants us as sons and daughters to experience **continual restarts** and **rebirths**. He wants us to literally **rebrand** our lives. God never meant for the **totality** of who we are to be **boring**. He intended for us to **experience** the **excitement** and **inspiration** that comes from **perpetual transformation**. (John 10:10 NIV)

Kingdom living is a **life of faith** where we achieve and fail, rise and fall, suffer and recover, loose and gain, and then after having done all, we **still fulfill** our destiny. This **transformative** experience or journey is what it means to "**move forward with God**".

**Moving forward** with God is what makes Christianity a **growth religion** in comparison with other **belief systems**. It is impossible for us **to focus** on God through Jesus Christ and **remain** the same people. When we read, pray, worship and obey, the Holy Spirit is going to **change us**. He will set **us free** from who we have been so we can **become** who we are **meant to be** in God! (**Key-transformation**)

## Challenges to Change:

If Christianity is a **growth religion**, then why is **change** so **difficult** for us? Why **doesn't God** just make it **easier**, so we can **grow into** the **people** we are **meant to become**?

I believe there are **many reasons** why **change is hard**, but I find that the **primary reason** is our **personal resistance** to **moving on and moving forward**. Learning **new things** is **not** the difficult part, **but letting go** of the **old things**, how we use to **do things**, and the **comfort** of what **people think** we **ought** to be; **that's the hindrance!**

We cannot **change** until we **move on** and **move forward**, until we get **emotionally unstuck** from yesterday's **thinking and yesterday's** living. Then and **only** then can we **pursue God's vision** of who we are **meant** to be as **His people!**

## How did we become emotionally stuck?

The Old Testament is **greatly undervalued**. In the Old Testament are these **incredible stories** about the **power of faith**. For example in Exodus, there is **one story** of how **faith** can **set us free** from **our emotional bondage**.

Right in the **middle** of this Exodus story is the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus 14. It shows us what it means to be **emotionally stuck**. The Israelites were in a **difficult position**.

On **one side** was the **Egyptian army**, closing in on the Israelites; while on the **other side** was the **Red Sea**. **There was no easy way out!**

Their choices were to be captured by the Egyptian army **or** drown in the Red Sea, which really was no choice at all.

**But** that is exactly what it feels like to be **emotionally stuck**; there are absolutely no good choices so **we tend** to go back to what we know, which **is the familiar**. We want to be **in** a time before we were in this **binding situation**. **That is exactly how the Israelites felt.**

The Israelites were frustrated and so are we! The Israelites **said** they never really **wanted to be free** from Egypt, and they wished they could **go back** to where life **to them** was **better**. Israel was emotionally stuck **in** Egypt; they couldn't let **Egypt go** because of the **fear of change**!

### **SCRIPTURES:**

#### **Job 42:12A (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> **So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning:**

#### **Exodus 14:13-16A (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> **Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.**

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.**

<sup>15</sup> **And the LORD said** unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, **that they go forward:**

<sup>16</sup> **Raise your staff and stretch out your hand** over the sea to divide the water .....

## **2 Timothy 1:7 KJV**

<sup>7</sup> For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

## **Exodus 14:21-22 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

<sup>22</sup> And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.