

ALLOWING FOR TRANSITIONS

Have any of you travelled by plane and ended up with “jet lag?” You may notice this if you have travelled on a long flight and you feel like you have left a little of your soul behind. It can take a few days for your soul to catch up. It can feel like you have jumped from one reality to another without much transition. At these times, your soul needs God and He is waiting right there for you to help move through a more gracious transition.



It is impossible to get from where we are to where we are going without making a transition. As Christians and as a Church, we need to learn to manage transition in order to be successful and step into the future.

A transition is moving from one point to another point. It is essentially moving forward. When we as Christians begin to encounter transition, when things begin to get shaky and unfamiliar, we need to realize that God is taking us somewhere. He is repositioning us. There are things we cannot get where we are at. God wants to strategically position us so that we will be able to access those things.

Q: What do you find most difficult about transitions?

The Israelites had made some poor choices and been overtaken by the power of the Midianite army. They had to hide away and do things in secret to keep them from the Midianites.

Read Judges 6:11-13.

Q: How was Gideon feeling about the title “mighty warrior?”

Read: Judges 6:14-18.

Q: Have you ever argued with God?

God is tremendously patient with Gideon who brings up excuse after excuse.

Q: Why do you think God agreed to Gideon's requests and struggles?

Q: What was it that God was emphasizing in this situation?

Read: Judges 6:25-27

Gideon was obeying God, but only in secret as he was not sure of what was coming nor of what people would think of his actions.

Q: Do you ever wish you could hide away so you don't have to worry about what others think?

Read: Judges 6:39-40

Q: What is Gideon trying to emphasize here?

Read: Judges 7:2-12 and 19-21

When things are going well, it is easy to be confident. When we have success, it is tempting to rely on our own power or boast of our own accomplishments. But God is the one doing the work. We don't have to go it alone and we don't succeed on our own. God always proves HE is the powerful one.

Read: Judges 7:19-21.

After all that worry, fear and doubt, all that Gideon and his men had to do was blow their horns and break their pitchers and the army fled.

There are so many times that we worry ourselves sick, only to find things were not nearly as tough as we anticipated. So why waste our time on that?

Read: Philippians 4:6-7 and Matthew 6:33-34.

When caught in the storms of life, it is easy to think that God has lost control and that we are at the mercy of the winds of fate. In reality God is sovereign. He controls the history of the world as well as our personal destiny. Just as Jesus calmed the waves, He can calm whatever storms we may face.

We need to remember that if God brought you to a situation, He will see you through it. And, we must remember that the storm is not the destination but the pathway to a destination. God has not forgotten us in this storm, and we are still going somewhere – there is still divine purpose in our lives.

When we are led by God into situations that we cannot handle, we can be sure that He is going to show up and help us out. If God presents us with a challenge bigger than we are, you can be sure He is prepared to invest in us the resources necessary to meet that challenge. Trials are there to mature you – not master you. We need to remember who we are, who is on board and what He has said. We need to remember what God has said about us.

As we enter in our 10 minute meditation I would like you to consider the following:

What do you need to surrender in order to completely follow Jesus?

What can you do to live without anxiety?

What one thing or person in life does not change?

Challenge for the week: Destroy your idols.

What do you follow and worship? We normally think of idols in terms of images or statues that we might worship or bow to. Yet ultimately worship is whatever takes up the bulk of our mental space.

We might not worship stone idols or demons, but we make the mistake of straying from God when we focus on anything other than Him.

We follow cliques and peer pressure. We look to media and popularity for significance. We worry and fret and spent time on ourselves or pleasures rather than God.

This week, think hard about what gets in the way of following God.

Just like Gideon burned the idols of Baal, submit to God those things that might be interrupting worship.

Take time away from a favourite activity and spent it in prayer instead.

Pray that your strength and focus would rest in God and not on yourself., in spite of any potential fears that might come your way.