

Life in Transition, Rick McKinney

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Intro

- Transition lenses

What is transition?

passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another

- transitions during period of lock down and after
- **Digital Transformation cartoon**
- transition to retirement

Transitions

- **voluntary** - getting married, deciding to have a baby, buying a house
 - Biblical examples
 - **Moses**
 - **Abraham**
 - **Joseph - Jesus' father**
- **involuntary** - decided on by others - losing a job, sometimes divorce,
 - Biblical examples
 - **Joseph**
 - **Paul & Silas - in jail**
- **life event**- getting sick, losing a loved one, having a car accident
 - Mary and Martha - death of Lazarus
- **Some happen quickly**
 - Birth of a child, starting a new job, moving into a new house
- **Some happen slowly**
 - Getting older
 - **Pictures - Rick & Beth**
- **Some transitions occur every day** - sleeping and waking are daily transitions
- **All contain unknowns**
 - Marriage - I had no idea what I was getting into
 - New baby - no idea
 - My job
 - Retirement

How do we respond to transitions in our lives?

In many different ways

- **Resistance**
 - Might dig our heels in and say "I won't do it" - and we might get away with that...or we might not
 - Jonah
- **Anger**
 - More likely to happen when the transition is not of our choosing. The transition results from a decision by someone else, and we have to go along.
- **Poor attitude**
 - Again, more likely when this is not our choice.
- **Acceptance**, making the best - waking and sleeping
 - This can be an acceptance of the transition as the result of someone else's decision or of our own.
- **Joy, happiness, expectancy**
 - all-expense paid vacation to any destination of your choosing

Transition is in your future

Have you been going through some transitions lately? If you have not, it is only a matter of time until you do, because life is full of transitions.

- **We do not need to be afraid transitions**

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go

Fear

- **Worried that something undesirable will occur or be done**
- **unwilling or reluctant to do something for fear of the consequences**

Maybe we could call this anxiety as well. Have you ever been afraid, or anxious, or worried about an upcoming transition? Anxious about starting new schools. When I lost my job, I was anxious about how I was going to pay my bills and provide for my family.

What can fear do? It might paralyze us and keep us from doing what needs to be done in the transition. At the very least, it can result in a feeling of dread and maybe make us physically sick at our stomach.

Discouragement

Having lost confidence or enthusiasm; discouraged

I think discouragement might come when we have transitions that are unexpected and possibly unwanted - illness, death, loss of job, etc.

Some transitions can bring fear and discouragement to our lives - death of a spouse, loss of a job, debilitating illness or accident. These situations do not take God by surprise. And he wants us to know that he is there with us. The Hebrew nation had to fight to occupy the land which God gave them. It did not come easy, and there were times that they forgot what God told them, that He was there with them and they did not need to be afraid or discouraged.

Confidence

The feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust

- **Stay steady knowing that God is with you during the transition**

I will be with you wherever you go.

He was with

- Moses
- Joshua
- Abraham
- Joseph...

The 1st century disciples fixed their hearts on Christ. The Holy Spirit came to live in them, and they were steady, knowing that God was with them.

When our heart and mind is not fixed on Christ, we can lose our way.

These words are easy and confidence usually comes from experience. When first learning to drive, were you confident? Was someone sitting next to you? Did that help feel a little better? Your confidence grew as you continued to drive. Our confidence in God being with us during transitions grows as we see that He has been there in the past.

- **God will equip you in the transition**

Moses

- Killed an Egyptian - maybe he thought he was doing the right thing - ended up in the desert for 40 years
- God called him to lead His people
 - Did not want to
 - Argued with God
 - Could have said No - but he said yes
 - A big, tough transition
 - God gave him the tools to meet the task
 - His brother as his spokesman
 - His staff
 - God's presence

Elisha

- Received the cloak of Elijah

The disciples - received the Holy Spirit

To be equipped does not mean that we will not face difficulties - it does mean that God will make a way. It might not be the way we want or expect. Depending on the circumstances, there might be a need for help from others, healing for hurts...

The Christian life is a life of transition (The Christian life might be the greatest transition)

- sinners to saints
- kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light
- from a world of imperfect love and acceptance to a world of unconditional love and acceptance
- been given everything that we need to love a life of holiness

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