



THE JOURNEY OF TRANSITION

The men of faith in the Old Testament continually took a spiritual journey of transition from the earthly into the heavenly. Men like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and many others, continued to walk in this way all their days. Even today, those who walk in this heavenly path cannot be at ease. That is why we read, "*Woe unto him who is at ease in Zion.*" (Amos 6:1). They were continually in a pilgrimage, in a state of transition. We are in a state of change from earthliness to heavenliness. If we step off the moving escalator at any point and leave, there is a great danger that the entire spiritual structure of our lives will collapse. We have observed that when some young believers go home on leave and return after one or two months, it is difficult to recognise them spiritually. This is so because they allow themselves to be at ease during their leave. We must recognise that there can be no let-up in pressing forward unto perfection. The moment we begin to be at ease, we are actually on the way down. The pull towards the earthly is so strong, that unless we go on exerting maximum pressure in an upward direction, we shall not succeed. It is so easy to lose what the Holy Spirit has built into us. If one relaxes one's hold on the upward trend in one's life, for even a short time, then one will find oneself going down. This is a reality. If we are cold or lukewarm in any way, our spiritual lives will come crashing down like a house of cards in no time. Moreover, when we fail to hold our lives upward, we are actually already on the way down. Many people are not able to discern that they are going down spiritually. They are not able to discern the downward motion in their lives. The whole trend of the earth is downward. If you do



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These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13

not hold on to the upward call, if that upward power is not in action, your spiritual life will easily go down. If we leave things as they are, they will surely go down. A downward trend is the natural way of life. We do not have to do anything to bring it down for it goes down naturally.

Imagine that you have a patch of land which you have converted into a beautiful garden. As long as you water it and take care of it, things will proceed well. But, weeds will take over, the moment you stop caring for the tender shoots and delicate plants. All that you have to do is to stop looking after that stretch of land and over a period of time it will become a wilderness. Undesirable wild plants, weeds and thistles will occupy the ground and your garden will soon be a messy place. You don't have to plant weeds and thistles; they come up ever so naturally. Beloved, this is true concerning the garden of your life as well. If we remove that upward Hand from our lives, we will go downward without much difficulty. That is why we need to get together as often as possible. We have times for testimonies, Bible studies, worship and prayer so that we may maintain the upward trend in our lives. This is true concerning all those who are walking in this heavenly path. The downward pull is so strong that if we do not hold on tightly to heavenly things, we will lose our grip and fall down. Soon we will find that we have begun to settle down in the earthly realm.

While we are walking on this narrow path, we will experience a great pressure to settle down and also to end this long drawn conflict. Isn't it true that we are often prompted to come out of the stress that is a part of this path? The whole history of the church is one long story of this tendency to settle down. The early church went through many struggles, but gave themselves to Christ that they might obtain their inheritance in Christ. If we want to be a part of the glorious church whose foundation is based upon the apostles and men of faith, then we have to go the same way that they went. The principles of God have not changed for the twenty-first century. History tells us that many men of God took the easy way to end the uncertainty and conflict that was present in the true Christian way. They conformed to the world; they became popular and famous; and soon they loosened their grip on the heavenly path. This has been the trend in the church which has eliminated the element of conflict and of pilgrimage by taking the easy path. Even today, the same trend is

continuing. Several believers prefer to settle down in the earthly realm because it is less costly. We are not only up against powers and principalities, but also against religious teachers in the world. Today, the greatest problem we face comes from those who claim to be spiritual and to be God's people.

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