

MANAGING LIFE SERIES: NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS OF LIFE

The only thing that is constant in this world is change, otherwise everything changes over time. Your life is fluid and dynamic by nature and there is nothing you can do about it. People grow old, people die, kids are born, they move through life from one stage to the other.

This continuous shifting of circumstances is very stressful, and we need to know how to navigate all the stress points. That is why this morning, I will be talking to you on the subject matter **NAVIGATING THE TRANSITIONS OF LIFE.**

Joshua 1:1 And it happened after the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 My servant Moses is dead. Now, therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I give to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, I have given that to you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border.

Joshua and the community of Israel were facing a major transition of their lifetime. It was two-fold in the sense that they were about to leave their desert home of 40yrs and were about to settle in the promised land. On the other hand, there was a change of leadership – from the great Moses to the young Joshua.

- I don't know if you have been there before – being in a place where you totally feel out of your depth and out of control.
- Canaan was a promise which needed to be fought for and the person that had led them through the treacherous desert had departed.
- Joshua was still coming to terms with the thought of filling the shoes of Moses and the Israelites were wondering whether they should trust Joshua or not.
- This was too much to handle at one go and it needed some cool heads to prevail.
- Some seasons can be planned for, but some just come across your way and you need to be able to navigate through all of them.
- The story of Joshua and the Israelites entering the promised land has some powerful principles that will assist you to enter your own Canaan.
- From the onset of the change of season for this community, we are introduced to God have a conversation with Joshua. I am sure Joshua felt that he needed to talk to God about this moment. So what is the take home this?

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1. Talk to God about the season you are in.

- Why should that be the starting point? It is because God knows where you should go – He has a plan and purpose for you.
- You might not know how tomorrow will work but if you know who knows tomorrow then you are secure in every transition.
- The chapter is introduced with God talking to Joshua (this implies that Joshua was looking to God for guidance) about the transitions he was facing.
- It was as if God was charging Joshua to awaken to the new reality and that he needed to face it – *“2 My servant Moses is dead. Now, therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I give to them”*
- When a transition is about to happen or is already in motion, you can either accept it or you can live in denial. You and your husband did not plan for another child, but you found yourself with a miracle baby or you got a doctor’s report saying you have a chronic illness – what do you do.
- Talking to God about the transition you are facing, gives you access to God’s resources that you need for the season.
- God started telling Joshua of the nature of the land He has in store for him and the Israelites.

Joshua 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border.

- Fear and panic kicks in when you are clueless about what you are getting into. But when you start with God, you are sure footed.
- Talk to God about the decision regarding which university to go to. When you do that, God Himself will order your steps, He will cause certain things to happen that will get you where He wants you to go.
- Talk to God about your desire to get into business, about who to partner with. I always pray for the right fit whenever employing people.
- Learn to live a prayed for life – pray before any transition so that when the transition happens, you have God ordering your steps.
- Every transition that starts with God, will proceed with God, and will end with God.
- God must never be an afterthought when you go through your transitions.
- Remember that every season is a steppingstone towards your destiny and eventually a steppingstone to heaven and God wants to see you through.

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Joshua 1:5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you.

- Being aware of the magnitude of the task ahead of him, Joshua began to have some doubts lingering in his heart. Doubts over his leadership abilities, doubts over their ability to fight their way through and God was aware of that.
- To allay Joshua's doubts, God assured him of His presence as Joshua was entering into the new season.

2. There is an assured presence of God in every transition.

- Whatever transition stands before you, no harm will befall you because you are a person of covenant. God told Joshua; *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you nor forsake you."*
- There is a promise of God's presence going into any season, but you must become aware of God's presence in order to navigate these choppy waters.
- God is with you during your season of loss; maybe you have just lost a loved one – God is with you.
- We do not need the presence of God only when things are bad, we also need His presence even when things are good.
- For instance, you need the assurance of God as you settle in your job, you need God's presence as you start your business.

Psalms 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

- The enemy wants you to feel lonely during your transitions, he wants you to feel abandoned.
- Many Christians can fear that God will leave them. I know I have certainly felt that way many times in my life.
- When you feel that God has deserted you, remember that it is not God's character to forsake you. Therefore, even when you cannot feel Him, He is there – Emmanuel.

Hebrews 13: 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

- The worry of God leaving you can cause you to focus on other things as your source, causing your faith to malfunction.
- God's presence ensures provision for your every need in the season.

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Joshua 1:6 Be strong and of good courage. For you shall divide for an inheritance to this people, the land which I swore to their fathers, to give it to them. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, neither be dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you in all places where you go.

- The first day of school is the hardest thing for any kid, the first day at your first employment can be a tough day also.
- It is because everything is new, the people are new, the culture is new, the location is new – everything is new.
- It is therefore normal to feel timid, scared and even upset. The truth of the matter is that you will encounter these types of transitions. God had a couple of words for Joshua because he was at odds with himself.

3. Engage every transition with boldness and courage.

- God must have seen something rising in the heart of Joshua and it was not a good thing. It was fear and distress and needed to be arrested quickly.
- Never underestimate the power of fear as you make your next move. To be fruitful in the new season, you need to approach it with boldness and courage.
- Joshua needed to be bold and courageous to face Canaan – the promised land is not for the faint hearted, it is for those who have a warrior-like approach to life.
- God was saying to Joshua that there are certain things He could not do for him – it required Joshua to make the move to possess the land: *“6 Be strong and of good courage. For you shall divide for an inheritance to this people, the land which I swore to their fathers, to give it to them.”*
- You must be bold to put in the application for a bond, you must be bold to sit for your final exam – like Bishop TD Jakes said “grasshopper don’t eat grapes” – the timid will not acquire a driver’s license, for instance.
- It is for God to make the promise, but it is for you to acquire the promise for yourself.
- The land was there but it needed a bold somebody to possess it – there is no honey without bees and there is no milk without angry cows.
- The devil will make you timid and fearful to rob you of your blessing. You cannot possess what you have you have not laid your feet on.