

Voice of Triumph



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"everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:7 NIV

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DON'T LET ANYTHING STOP YOU — JUST KEEP ON MOVING IN CHRIST

Now that 2008 has begun, you may think things must change. They can't possibly stay the same. You do not want the same old thing with just another year being the difference. I firmly believe we all must move toward the change we seek by becoming ready for the opportunity we desire. Myles Monroe says "With skill, success comes quickly." Don't be a caterpillar who looks at a picture of a butterfly soaring and then say that's impossible. You must be a caterpillar that sings *I believe I can fly*. Inside, the caterpillar doesn't know that he can't be a butterfly. He just keeps moving toward it. When you actively resist doubt, you too will explode with confidence that you can soar. In fact, the butterfly experiences four distinct stages. The first stage the egg is strategically placed on a leaf where it can receive nourishment until it is time to leave the leaf. A known biblical reference says to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. This can reference childhood or the spiritually-born moving toward maturity; one bent in the direction where s/he should go that envisions the image of God's finished work. If you currently have a loved one who was bent toward the Son, but now has turned away, just like a flower bends towards the sun, s/he will find his way back no matter if it is a sunny or a cloudy day. Even if you are bent out of shape, the Lord will graciously and meticulously sculpt you into his purposed, approved, desired, and valued masterpiece. Anticipate Jesus Christ being the author and finisher of your faith for an extreme makeover. Expect the Lord to crown 2008 with his goodness. The Spirit of God will guide you into all truth as he orders each step of the way. Just keep on moving in Christ! **1. Bend toward where you should go.** In the second stage, the egg forms into a caterpillar. Because he is feeling a little cramped, he must move away from the leaf into a new environment. During this life stage, what may seem to us as just crawling around aimlessly without a purpose, the yellow fuzzy little creature is exploring his world. Through it all, the caterpillar just keeps on moving until he discovers a secluded place for his transformation. Just keep moving in Christ! **2. Move into an environment that you won't outgrow.** From that place begins the third stage which is known as resting. However, it is anything but resting. The caterpillar keeps spinning until it is encased in its self-made cocoon. It is still a whole lot of activity inside the walls. The world is awaiting his arrival, but he's not. He's got to work himself out into the open. The spin gives him a new twist on life. But he is not thinking to himself, look at the mess you got yourself in. It was his season to spiral into the next stage of life, so he kept on moving. To go where he is purposed, he knew he could not stay the same. He had to keep on moving although it's dark and oh so lonely. Although you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, fear no evil for God is with you. Often in seclusion is where you have an undeniable encounter with God. It is where your doubts melt because you feel you have met him face to face. Now you know for certain, there is a God and he makes his presence vividly known to you. Just keep on moving in Christ! **3. Release yourself so you can flow.** In the fourth stage the caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly. With glory on his mind, he works himself out of the struggle. He never waits, but works at his breakthrough. Before he can fly, his wings must dry. As they move back and forth, he receives strength to fly. Some may tend to call this whole process some sort of discipline. But reframe your thinking to include this: your opportunity to be sufficiently prepared for the brand new place. Since you were made to fly, you must keep on moving! Isaiah 40:31 declares, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew his strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint." Who or what you bind yourself together with will determine whether you fly, run, or walk. Know this: If you are crawling around today, just keep on moving! While the caterpillar-butterfly transformation seems to be without help from others, know God will never leave or forsake you. Recognize his presence through the whole process. Discover the Lord in both triumph and trial. You won't stumble or fall so just keep moving in Christ! **4. Set yourself loose to engage the bountiful overflow.**

A TRANSFORMED WAY OF LIVING AND WORKING

God makes this challenge from the Message in Isaiah 43:18-19. "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present [in 2008]. I'm about to do something brand-new; it's bursting out! Don't you see it." That scripture text clearly gives you a portrait of God's desire for you to move from that old cycle of defeat into a transformed way of living and working.

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Thought for Transformation

What a distinction it would make if you look at the events in 2007 as your seed instead of your harvest. You would not be weary or ready to faint, thinking that can't be all I have in store? You would know what you are crying about is not really harvest. The Word says "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." If you are still crying then it is not harvest. It may be the working-it-perfect-time that's between sowing and reaping. Harvest will not come just because you cry. So I say to you— Arise, my friend. Arise. Wipe your weeping eyes. Twain quoted, "Sing like no one is listening. Dance like no one is watching. Love like you have never been hurt. Live like its heaven on earth." Believe no tears shed will be wasted. Harvest comes when you believe God is a rewarder of your precious seeds sown. Harvest comes when you hear and follow divine instructions precisely to the place of reward. Once you establish the Word of God in your heart as both sure and pure, make ample room to receive what you have been believing. Designate a place that validates your faith in God. Identify scriptures that will serve as your indelible word picture. Acknowledge your desire as a possession. Give voice to its presence. Thank God for the addition now.