

## Change and Innovation Part 3 - Get Ready to Move out of your Comfort Zone

In Part 2: Act out the Change piece it was stated that acting out the change calls for stepping out of the usual, normal or comfort zone in our activities.

Without change, growth is impossible. Change is a process not a destination. You can make a decision to change now but you need to go through a transition to become what you envisioned. The butterfly egg did not become a colourful butterfly when it hatched. The larvae/caterpillar cannot turn into a colourful creature appreciated by man if it does not go through the pupa stage and break out of the cocoon by itself. Sometimes we are scared of going through the transition stage(s) but the reality is that we cannot enjoy the future we envisioned without going through some discomfort.

The question is, are you ready to move out of your comfort zone? If Abraham did not step out of his comfort zone, he would have remained Abram with no covenant that linked him to us. Gen. 12: 1-3 talks about the call of Abram and we will explore how we can apply it to our lives in terms of getting out of our comfort zone.

1. What is the call upon your life? Sometimes our career may not be our call. How did you choose your career? Reasons why some individuals have midlife crisis include becoming aware that they are on the wrong path/career; an awareness that what got them to where they are will not get them to the next stage; or awareness that the future they envisioned seem not realizable. Abram had his call at an old age, so even if you have passed 50 years today you can still make it on God's call, direction or re-direction as the case may be.
2. Abram was instructed to leave, part ways or change location with all that was familiar to him to embark on a journey to an unknown destination or future. The first call upon us is to change from the inside out by parting ways with anything that does not glorify God and live a life of obedience unto God. Hardly is every transition to envisioned future sudden, many of us will experience it incrementally. Is God asking you to separate or move on but you are struggling with the direction? May be the struggle is because you cannot envision what the change will be like. Be assured that God will not short-change you but bring you to a place of rest ask God to give you a glimpse of what lies in store for you as that may energize you to push ahead.
3. With the call to move out of your comfort zone comes God's promise of his presence, provision and power at work in your life. For a second do not think God's call is just for you to splurge, God's promise comes with a requirement to be a blessing on to others even as we go through the discomfort of the change.
4. What are the pillars for stability in times of change in our lives? From Abraham's story we can pick the need to establish a life of listening to God and obeying his instructions even when we feel our livelihood or life is threatened. He who has brought us thus far will not abandon us in our time of need. There is also the willingness to learn how to stay faithful to God in the midst of people of different faith orientation and life goals.

It is time to move out of your comfort zone when you clearly hear God say so. Then you are assured he will be there with you. Making a move to study in Canada at age 42 without financial support from any individual/organization and moving my family along is the most challenging move in my life. I could not have done it if not for clear word and direction of God directly and through faithful servants of his in our local church (Trinity Tabernacle, Ikeja GRA, Lagos) to me. I do not know what you are struggling with right now but I know God has been faithful to me and many others he has led through changes.

Have a blessed month.