

Move – you have surrounded this mountain for too long

Sunday 27 January, 2008

In the Redeemed Christian Church of God, this is our year of “The Next Level” and for the past few weeks we have been looking deeply into the topic. Last week we looked at the need to be humble so that Christ can be lifted up in our lives and today we are going to look at other factors we have to take into consideration in order to definitely move to the next level.

Text Deut 2:2 - 36

*Deut 2:2-3 And Jehovah spake unto me, saying, Ye have **compassed** this mountain long enough: turn you northward. – ASV translation*

*And the Lord spoke to me [Moses], saying, You have **roamed around** this mountain country long enough; turn northward. - Amplified version*

The reality then and also today is the fact that many people like to roam or wander around a particular thing/course/decision/opportunity without taking action until either the opportunity slips away or they grow weary due to indecision or get discouraged or become stagnant year in year out or even become complacent and not hopeful because they roam around different mountains of life (family, social, spiritual problems; obstruction to good success; sickness, low income, etc) without reflection on how to move, when to move, where to move, what to move to or the determination to bring about a change by the help of the Holy Spirit. Today by His grace, we'll look at how not to get stuck but getting moving in the right direction and to the next level. We'll also learn how God worked and admonished the children of Israel to move to the next level.

How do we get moving in the right direction and onto the next level?

1. **Be obedient and seek the face of God** (through pray and study of His word) so that you may know His mind for every situation. After the children of God disobeyed God in Deut 1, they came to Mount Seir and wandered around it for a long time until God spoke to His servant, to tell the children of Israel to stop wandering and turn northwards. Prior to that, they rebelled against the commandment of God and lost the battle and their enemies chased them. They may have wondered how to progress after the big loss due to their disobedience. So for us not to get to a situation where we do not move swiftly and smoothly to the next level, we have to seek God's face get instructions from Him and be obedient to them.

2. **Be focused, take heed to yourself, be careful**, - In verses 3 & 4 God told the children of Israel that the children of Esau who also happen to be their kinsmen (brethren) will be afraid of them and as such they should watch themselves carefully and not meddle with them. On the journey to the next level, we have to be focused and not allow anything to distract us.

3. Be well equipped to go to the next level – In verse 6, God told them – “You shall buy food from them for money, that you may eat, and you shall also buy water from them for money, that you may drink”.

To move to the next level we have to equip ourselves, they needed energy, good health for their journey and to win their battles; possess their possession and so do we as well. We have to equip ourselves with all we need to move to the next level. We have to learn to invest in ourselves, buy books, listen to messages from men of God that inspires us, take time to hear from God and be filled with both spiritual and physical food and drink. Below are some examples.

Spiritual

- For instance if you want to demonstrate the power of God, you have to be equipped with knowledge, engage in prayer and fasting because some things do not go except by prayer and fasting – Mathew 17:21
- Or is it salvation you need and you have being postponing the day of salvation; it is written that now is the acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation – 2 Corinthians 6:2b.

Finances

Some of you want to be debt free, but yet you do not know the average amount you spend in a month vis a viz your income, neither do you pay your tithe. This is the time to turn a new leaf and begin to pay your tithe, cut all unnecessary expenditure, set your target, work towards it and wait on God for a breakthrough and open windows of heaven for your blessings. Learn to give so that it shall be given to you.

– As you obey God this year in the area of your finances, He will cause your barns to be full and open the windows of heaven to you in Jesus name.

Others

Or is it healing or better job or future partner or whatever area you want to move higher, equip yourself to get there. No one goes to the farm without equipment to till the ground; No good student goes to school with out his or her pencil or other writing materials. For us to move to the next level we should equip ourselves with necessary materials and engage in required task to achieve our purpose/desires.

4. Be at peace with your “brethren”, do good and not evil to them, in vs 19, the children of Israel were told not to fight the children of Lot and Esau. Even though the children of Esau and Lot were afraid of them and would not want to have anything to do with them. Make sure that nothing can hinder your prayers from being answered. If there is any unforgiveness in you or root of bitterness, you’ve got to let go and let God do the work of healing in you.

- Ps 133:1 - how sweet and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity, that is where God commands His blessings. Forbear, support, encourage, strengthen and not pull each other down, help and not destroy.

5. **Do not fret, trust the Lord** that He is true to His words, obey Him and He will grant you good success. In verse 36 of Deut 2, God delivered all their enemies into their hands.

Duet 2: 36 From Aroer, which is on the edge of the Arnon Valley, and from the city that is in the valley, as far as Gilead, there was no city too high and strong for us; the Lord our God delivered all to us.

6. **Have clear target** of what you want to conquer or the goals you want to achieve. In vs 29 of our text, Moses asked for passage to go to Jordan, the promise land. Do you know your spiritual, financial, marital, social, “physical Jordan”?

7. **Be ready to remove obstacles to the promise land** ie your set target or next level after you have conceived them and have the promise from God. In vs 24 they were allowed to wage war against Sihon the Amorite because he would not let them pass on to the promise land. This is amazing because in addition to the promise land, God also gave them the spoil of their enemies. The Bible says in Mat 11:12 that from the day of John the Baptist, the Kingdom of God suffers violence and the violence takes it by force. You have to be determined and ready to possess your possession and take what is yours and move to the next level. We have to be prepared to exert energy, every move and step requires energy, and so we have to be prepared to move. May we not be complacent in Jesus name. Amen.

In the message from the RCCG General overseer, he stated that – You shall be among the chosen few! There is no next level without persistence, pain and struggle. You are rewarded based on the problem you help solve! Every obstruction at home, work and life shall fall like Goliath fell in Jesus’ name, and you will move to the next Level.

An example of my personal experience -

When I wanted to move on to the next level in my education i.e. I wanted another Masters degree, I went from one organization to the other for weeks looking for scholarship, praying and trusting God that I would get one and eventually I did and I got sponsored for more than I expected they would cover. I pressed on by the grace of God and did not give up until I got what I wanted.

To move to the next level we have to be ready to persevere, obey God’s words and make sacrifice where required, we have to die to self and allow the spirit of God to rule and guide us all the time as well as practice the seven steps above. I do not know what your next level is, but the challenge this morning is that you

should set clear target for yourself, have them before you, and pray about them. Be determined, focused and work towards achieving them. You will get there in JESUS NAME. AMEN.

- Foyeke Christiana Tolani