

Why Even the Hardest Transitions Are Worth Going Through

Nothing in life is certain, except for death, taxes ... and change. God never changes, but we do. Through sanctification we are transformed from sinful, carnal creatures into the image of God's Son.

Becoming like Jesus requires a lot of change—and often involves difficult periods of transition.

Transition can take many forms. It can be like the transition during labor—intense pain followed by a clear reward. Or it can be like the momentary transition that takes place when you switch gears in a car to face the challenge of the road ahead.

For an instant you are between gears. The engine is roaring, but you have no control. You may not know what the road ahead is like or whether you even want to move to a higher level. But when the shift occurs, you are connected once again with the power of the engine and are translated into a higher level of operation—the next gear.

Transition can also be a time that seems as if it will never end—a long, dark night of the soul when all around you seems dim and you lose sight of God's promises to you. In this season, you may lose your sense of God's presence and feel that He has abandoned you.

Don't give up! I have learned that no matter how uncomfortable the period of transition is, change is a good thing. It keeps us moving forward.

Forward motion starts with just one step, and we have the assurance that our steps "are ordered by the Lord" (Ps.

37:23). This means that God has a plan for us. He knows what is needed to conform us to the image of Christ.

But taking that first step often requires the kind of faith Peter had when he stepped out of the boat and walked on water in response to Jesus' command to come (see Matt. 15:28-32). Faith allowed Peter to do something that was impossible in the natural, but the roar he heard in the natural—the wind—distracted his faith, and he began to sink.

Don't allow the storms of your transition to cause you to lose sight of God's promise to see you through. To the degree you see or hear the natural, you can't hear God.

Weathering transition successfully also requires trust. Suffering, Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). And David declared, "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Ps. 56:3). God rewarded David's trust with refuge and deliverance. Know that you serve One who is trustworthy.

Whether in birth or in the darkest night, each period of transition in your life will lead you to a glorious new place. Allow God to use each one to take you to a higher level spiritually, with the ultimate goal that you become like Him.

PRAYER POWER FOR THE WEEK OF 9/23/2013

This week embrace change and thank God that He is moving you to a new level of trust when you weather storms of transition in your life. Continue to pray for those who have suffered great loss due to fires on the east and west coasts, and floods in the Midwest. Praise God for the outpouring of love from Christians and the private sector during this time of recovery. Pray for the families of those who died in the recent mass killings at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Remember those persecuted for their faith and victimized in Syria and other Middle East countries. Pray for revival in our nation and that President Obama and his administration would

seek God as they lead the country during this difficult time of national and international challenges. Pray that righteousness will be restored to our executive, judicial and legislative branches. Remember our troops and their families. Psalm 37:23; Matt. 15:28-32