

"If you listened, and if you paid attention to the message in the music this morning, you've already heard my sermon.

They sang a song that had talked about step by step, how I make it true. Title of this morning's message is, you got to keep moving.

They sang a song about splitting the sea, so I could walk right through.

I'm going to talk about that.

They sang a song about walking through the deep, and standing in the fire.

I'm going to talk about that.

And they just talked about being the refuge in the storm.

I'm going to talk about that too.

But the strangest thing, this is going to be the third time.

I have shared this message.

I'm on a six-year cycle. I date all my messages.

I'm on a six-year cycle.

It was twelve years ago I preached it the first time. It was six years ago I preached it the last time. If I come back in six years, I may preach it again.

I don't know.

But the thought on each message is totally different."

"But the illustrations are the same.

You say, well, how can that be?

Because that's how God designed His Word. Because you can use the same scripture for my problems, your problems, and fifteen other people's problems because they're not the same yet the Word of God is.

And it will move and work in the way that it can. The first time I preached this message, the title of it was You're Still Here.

You're Still Here.

And I ask you, how many times in your life, especially when you get to this point in life, can you look back and see how that God's grace protected you and kept you still here?

I can't over and over. I can't over and over.

Last time I preached this message, the title was It's Time for a Change. And I said we need to change our attitude.

We need to change our outlook.

Get away from all this gloom and doom.

We need to change our expectations.

We need to raise them up.

We need to expect more from God, okay?

We need to change our location.”

“I read this again when I was preparing all this, and I thought, man, oh, man, I'm not smart enough to come up with that.

So I know this was God.

We need to change our location.

How far is it between where you are right now and where you want to be?

Are you with God where you want to be? Well, if you're not changing location, get closer.

We need to change our values.

Are our values the same as God's values?

Or are our values based on things in the world?

We need to change our demeanor.

We need to change our disposition. And I wrote beside that one, nobody likes the grouch.

Sometimes we just literally need to change the look on our face.

Try smiling.

You will take less effort to smile than it does to come out.

Try smiling at people.

It will help them.

Today's message is, you got to move.

You got to keep moving.

All right?”

“You got to move.

Now, this scripture reading should sound very familiar.

We just used it last week.

Deuteronomy, the second chapter in the first verse.

Deuteronomy 2, 1, 2, and 3, talking about the children of Israel.

And the children of Israel, in this verse that I'm reading, they were doing that.

They were moving.

But they were not moving in the right direction.

Your enemy will keep you so busy doing things for God that you don't have time to hear what God's really saying to you.

But you think you're doing things for Him. You're doing good.

You need to learn to move in the right direction. We need to learn to move in the right direction. A scripture reading says, Then we turned and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, and the Lord spake unto me, and we compassed Mount Serre many days.

And the Lord spake unto me, saying, You've compassed this mountain long enough to turn you northward. Time to move. They've been going in circles for 38 years.

God said it's time to move, but it's time to move in the right direction.”  
“It's time you went north.

It's time you headed where you are destined to be, church. God has a plan for us, and we need to start moving in that direction.

But we've got to keep moving, all right?

We're going to be preaching primarily from the book of Acts this morning, starting in about the 27th chapter. In the 27th chapter of Acts, this is where we find that Paul is getting ready to sail toward Rome.

And Paul is going to Rome because God ordained it.

God set it in motion. It was always God's plan for Paul to end up in Rome. If you look back there in the 23rd chapter even, the 11th verse, God made this promise to Paul.

And over four chapters later, in the 27th chapter, he's putting that plan into motion. But I want you to understand that when God puts a plan into motion, he's usually got a plan within a plan, or maybe two or three plans within the same plan. And you might not really enjoy part of God's plan.

Okay? All right.”

“So with that in mind, Paul was getting ready to go to Rome. It was not the best time of year to go.

Winter was coming on.

Winter always brought storms. And Paul told them, told the centurion that was guarding him, that, hey, we ought to stay right here through winter and go on in the spring. But the centurion that was guarding him talked to the ship captain, and the ship captain stole dollars from him.

He was money motivated.

Because what I'm telling you is, he didn't get the ride for free.

There was no free rides back then.

There was no free rides today.

So the captain wanted the money. And he said, I were fine.

Have you ever bought in to that logic?

I were fine.

It will be all right. So Paul said, they shouldn't go.

They didn't listen.

They chose not to listen.

It failed into a terrible storm. Have you ever chose not to listen?

You had to pay the price for it?

Yeah, me too.

Me too.

Do you realize that those signs they put beside the highway and the interstate are not suggestions?"

"There are limits.

It doesn't say speed suggestion.

It says speed limit.

Okay?

I used to know a state police officer that his saying was, nine, you're fine, ten, you're mine.

And I always wondered, is that throughout, or is another guy that says it, five, you're fine, and six, you're mine?

You know, you just don't know.

Have you, I hope you've never had a speeding ticket.

If you haven't, I've helped you out, because I have.

I have literally, back in the day, they would take your paper license and staple them to your ticket.

Mine looked like it had been shot.

It had so many little holes in it.

I lost my license because you had to go to the courthouse and pay for your ticket. I went and paid for my ticket, got my license, lost them and get on the way home.

I was in a hurry with life.

It's not a suggestion.

Have you ever passed anybody?

Have you seen people get pulled over and that officer writing them a citation? Have you ever seen any of them smiling and waving at you when you walk by?"

"No, you have not.

No, you haven't.

So sometimes we need to learn to listen to good advice.

Well, how do I know it's good?

Therein lies the question.

How did they know Paul's advice was good?

Because he got it from God. Because he got it from God.

But they chose not to listen, and they went out and they got caught up in the storm because they chose not to listen. This book is full of wonderful advice, but it's up to you to choose to listen to the words in this book to take God at his word, to trust him, to depend upon him.

That's up to me and you, but we don't have to.

And when you don't, you'll be able to look back and say, man, I wish I had listened.

Man, I wish I had took God's word for this.

You know, but they didn't, and they got caught up in this storm, and they began throwing things overboard. Now, sometimes the storm in your life, and we talked about that, too, about God being a refuge in the storm.

They sang about it."

"Sometimes the storms in your life happen, so that you will begin to let go of some things. Everything they had in that boat, had in that ship, they thought they needed.

They thought they could use.

They thought they needed. My garage is filled with stuff I think I need.

You understand what I'm saying?

I think I need it.

You know, it's good stuff.

I know it's been there 18 years, but it's good stuff.

And they begin to get rid of it. Why?

Because of the storm. It wasn't just extra stuff.

They were throwing away stuff that they thought they needed, but not really. Because when it come right down to it, they needed to get rid of some of that baggage. Church, there is a lesson to be learned there.

It is time and past time we got rid of some of that baggage that we're carrying around.

We got rid of some of that stuff we're dragging from the past into the present.”

“We let go of some of this junk, and sometimes it takes a storm in our life to get us to the point we're willing to get shat of it. Storms can be less than they... I told you, God had a plan, we had a plan and plan.

And this wasn't his favorite part of this whole deal, that we were out here, you know, their ship, because he knows what's going to happen.

God has told him, hey, ship's going to get destroyed, you know.

Ship's going to be torn in pieces, but I'm going to spare everybody on board.

I'm going to take care of everybody on board, but you're going to lose the ship.

The ship was their security.

They're in the middle of the ocean, but they're not safe.

You can't get out and walk on water.

Wintertime, storm, all this stuff.

They hadn't seen the sun in days, and they're throwing stuff out.

We need to get shut us up, but the ship is still destroyed.

All 276 people on board made it safely to land.

You know why the ship was destroyed?”

“Because some of them couldn't swim, and they got to land on the pieces of a broken ship.

God may wreck something in your world to save you. He may. He may.

I talked with a person the other day that this person had aspirations of something, okay?

Had no idea that the health crisis was coming.

Had no idea that life was going to take a different turn.

And had they got what they wanted, they couldn't do it.

So in the midst of this storm, God's provision became so clear to this person that God knew what he was doing, whether I liked it or whether I not. Sometimes God will, in the midst of the storm, He'll wreck something to save you and to bring you through it. The things that happen in life, you don't have to understand them.

God did not tell Paul why.

I mean, Paul got in the water too, for goodness sake. He was wet there. I don't know if Paul could swim or not.

Bible doesn't tell us, but either way, he made it to land.

He made it to shore, all right?"

"What they had to do was, in the midst of this storm, keep trusting God, keep moving forward, not give up, not throw in, not quit, for goodness sake, because they lost the ship. They had to know that God has got to thank them, because God made them a purpose.

Not a single one of you shall perish in the midst of this storm.

276 people made it all the way safely to land because of God's grace, but they had to keep moving.

They couldn't stay out there in the water. They didn't want to stay in the water.

They wanted to get to land.

You know what lesson is learned?

You know what we do?

Forget that.

You know what I do?

I complain about the storm instead of thanking God for His grace to keep me to it.

I know I'm the only one that does that, so I'll bear the burden for y'all.

We complain about the storm.

I don't like this.

I don't know why I got to be this.

Because God knows what He's doing, whether I do or whether you do or not."

“And you can hold on to God's promise that I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you, but you've got to keep moving. You've got to keep going.

You could be that one who's holding on to the part of the ship and says, I am not going anywhere.

I'm going to stay right here till somebody comes and gets me.

He would still be in the water today, because God's plan was to keep moving, keep moving.

And He moved them to an island.

He moved them to an island in the 28th chapter.

And when they got to that island, they were cold, and they were wet, and they began to build a fire.

Do you know the story?

How that, as they were gathering wood to build the fire, that a serpent, a snake, came out of the bundle of wood that Paul was carrying and bit him on the hand.

King James wrote it in the Bible, it says, he fastened on his hand.

Fastened on his hand.

And the people, the people were quick to judge.

Can you believe that?

Quick to judge.

Oh my, aren't you glad we don't do that?”

“Not jump to conclusions, not quick to judge?

I read an old story years and years ago that the church's exercise program included jumping to conclusions and flying off the hill.

I don't know, but okay.

They saw this snake, and they saw it fastening his hand, and they said, hey, this is a bad guy. This is a bad guy. I mean, he escaped the vengeance on the ocean, but man, he's supposed to die.

He's going to die, and he must deserve to die, because that snake.

And the Bible tells us that he shook the snake off into the fire.

He shook it off.

I can only imagine this.

I can imagine he shook it off violently.



I don't think it was Oh, my.

I think if it was me, it would be violent.

It would be very violent.

If I got a big old snake hanging off of my hand, I'm going to shake that thing off like my arm's going to fall off."

"I'm going to shake it off.

And I think it was that way.

But, church, there are things that attach themselves, that fasten themselves to us, that we need to shake off.

We need to shake off the spirit of defeat because we feel defeated, and we feel like there's no use to fight anymore.

We're tired, and we don't want to do battle anymore. Church, this spirit of defeat will overwhelm you. It will consume you, and it will spread like a virus throughout to the people around about you because it has a spirit of negativity.

If you don't believe me, just look around in the world today.

They all feel defeated, downcast, and down-trodden.

Church, that is not what God designed for Church to be. We are on the winning side.

We are going to win the overall war.

We may lose a battle every now and then, but we are still on the winning side.

We've got to shake off that spirit of defeat.

And we say, well, I don't want to be this way.

Well, what are you doing about it? Well, I just want God to take it."

"You are trying to shake it off.

Shake it off like you want it off, okay?

We've got to get rid of the spirit of defeat.

We've got to get over our past mistakes.

Leave them behind you. Let them go.

They are under the blood.

If you not put them under the blood, you need to get them under the blood.

Ask for forgiveness.

Believe God gives you those forgiveness. It's gone from him.

Did you see that?

I caught that.

That's pretty good. They are under the blood.

They are gone. God does not remember them. Quit beating yourself over.

Shake that stuff off.

Shake off fear, church. Shake off fear.

What are we afraid of?

The Bible is in perfect love.

Cast without all fear.

But yet we are afraid of all this stuff.

Quit worrying.

Oh, my gosh."

"You know, if worry was an Olympic sport, we would have a bunch of gold medalists among us.

Yeah. Would you get your medal in?

Worry.

I'm good at it.

I worry about not having something to worry about.

Yeah. Yeah. Why?

What can you change by worrying?

Nothing.

It just makes you old before your time.

It stresses you out.

It will break down your health.

Quit worrying.

But preacher, I'm worried. I know you are.

But stop it.

Shake it off.

Shake off that hopeless feeling.

If you are still drawing breath, there is hope in your life.

It is not too late. Shake off that hopeless feeling, because there is hope in Jesus Christ. Oh, this is a big one.

Shake off the opinion of the world, because everybody got one.

And we live in an age where everybody believes you need to hear their opinion.

Really, but one opinion you need, and that's God's.

That's God's.

That's the one you need.”

“That's the one you need to be concerned about. We are worried about this other bunch that feels like they need to tell you. If we were as concerned about what Jesus has to say about the whole deal, then we are about what the whole world has to say about everything, we would be better off.

Shake off the opinion of the Lord.

Shake off the depression.

Shake off the anxiety.

You've got to put forth that you've got to keep moving to get this stuff done.

It has to happen exactly that way.

Shake it off.

Paul saw that that had fastened itself upon him, and he shook it off. You can look at all the stuff that's trying to hang itself on you.

You've got to shake it off. You've got to get rid of it. You've got to put forth the effort, and you've got to keep moving.

There's another problem.

I'm sorry.

There's just a lot.

There's another issue.

No, no, do you have to shake it off?

You've got to shake it off in a certain place. You need fire.

Why in the fire?"

"If you don't shake it off in the fire, it will crawl right back up and attach itself to you.

You've got to get rid of it.

What kind of fire?

Oh, and therein lies the problem.

An old-fashioned, holy ghost, fire that completely does away everything in your life.

An old-fashioned, holy ghost, fire.

Why a fire?

Because our God answers by fire. You remember the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal? Elijah said, The God that answers by fire let him be gone.

You've got to shake it off in the fire.

And you've got to find that holy ghost fire.

We need that fire of God in our homes.

We need that fire of God in our church. And we need that fire of God in our church people.

Because when that fire is there, you shake that stuff off and it will be gone.

But there's another thing, there's still another thing.

You can have the fire.

You've got to be close to it.

You've got to be close to it."

"You know where Paul was when he shook that serpent off?

Right by the fire. But he shook it off into the fire.

He didn't say, I'll take it up and throw it into the fire.

He was standing right there by it.

You know, standing right there by it.

We need to be close to that holy ghost fire.

Had you ever gone camping and then the weather changed?

You can't totally get close enough to the fire.

You wouldn't have sacrificed your shoes to keep the feet warm.

What I mean is, let the shoes get burned up, just want to be close.

You want to be close to the fire.

It's the same way in church. We need to build a fire, and we need to keep that.

I preach this message.

It's a good one, too.

We need to keep the fire burning. We need to do what it takes to keep the fire burning. They did that in days of old, when David would rise in the middle of the night and look toward the temple."

"They had people that their job was to keep the fire burning in the house of Almighty God. And you could look out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and see the fire of God burning in the church.

We need the fire of God burning in the church!

And it's not.

It's not.

Well, we heat things up on Sunday.

And by Wednesday, they're cool by the end.

So we meet on Wednesday, we candle in a little bit.

And sometimes on Sunday, we gotta start from scratch.

You know what I mean?

We gotta gather wood.

We gotta bring it up.

We gotta build this fire.

What would it be like if we walked in compared to having church, rather than doing all the singing and all the preaching and leaving feeling good?

What if we walked in feeling good and left feeling better?

How about that?

Well, preacher, that's a tall order.

Now, if you shake off some of this stuff you're dragging around with you, we can do it.

It can happen.

We'll build that fire.

We got enough spiritual wood, Cook. We can make that fire.

It can burn hot."

"It can burn bright. And the world can see it. And we can shake off all this stuff that's hanging on us, but we've got to keep moving through it.

We are saved and satisfied and willing to set on the pew until Jesus comes back and takes us home.

Church, there's stuff to do. There are people to reach for the cause of Christ.

There, your life is to be enriched by the power of Almighty God, but we've got to keep moving.

We've got to stay close enough to the fire to make sure what we shake off goes in the fire.

We have to do that, folks.

We've got to keep moving.

We've got to keep moving.

I got so many notes.

I don't even know where I'm at.

Oh yeah, here we go.

Well, you know, Richard, I feel like I'm in the fire right now.

I understand that. I know about that.

But I also know about prisoners and children who ended up in the fire, in the fire.

How did they keep from getting burned up in there?

Well, it was a supernatural thing by God, you know?"

"You know how, and I've read up on this, you know how they stop some big fires, like forest fires in the spring?

You know how they stop that?

They build a, I forgot what they call it. I call it a backfire. Fires over here and coming this way, well, they build a big fire right here.

And they try to make this fire as hot or hotter than this one.

So when it gets there, it's just cold.

It was through Hebrews I'm talking about, and the fire shattered, and he's shagging the bed, and he goes, you've heard about those guys since you were in Sunday school.

We're going to say, why didn't they get burned up?"

"Because the fire burned hotter in them than it was on the outside. That Holy Ghost fire of God, that Spirit of Jesus Christ that was alive and well in them, that thing that kept them from bowing down to the false gods, that thing that set them apart, that thing that made them willing to go into the fire in the first place, trusting God, depending upon God, the storm in their life that was going to make all the difference in their life and change the world as they looked, because when they're in there, there was a fourth man there in the fire with them.

It's something about that today, too.

I'm telling you, if you listen, you already heard all of this. I'm just going to elaborate.

Sometimes you'll get in the fire, but the fire is there to make you better, not to make you worse, not to destroy you.

It's there to make you better, a refining fire to make you better.

What were the three Hebrew children doing when they bent down and looked in the furnace?

The Bible says they were up, they were walking, they were moving. They were moving."

"You gotta keep moving.

You've got to keep moving.

And they were.

They were moving. They were going.

Church, you've got to keep moving.

All right.

Let's keep moving.

Exodus 14 now.

Talk about this too. We've already sung about it.

14th chapter of Exodus.

God told Moses, you tell the children of Israel, you're gonna go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

How?

We're gonna do that because, you remember this story?

They're at the edge of the Red Sea. They look behind them, the Egyptian army is coming for them to take them back and put them back into slavery, which is exactly what your enemy wants to do. You feel like you're at an impasse, and you look behind you, and your enemy's coming right up on you to keep you in the bondage that you've been in all this time.

So they had a choice to make, keep moving or stay in bondage.

The choice was theirs.”

“God made them promise, you will walk through, through, through, underline and highlight that in your Bible.

You shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And God told Moses in the 15th verse of the 14th chapter, he said, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go over.

Move.

Move. Keep moving. That you go forward, that you keep moving.

Remember that old song, Greg?

He won't leave you there.

You remember that old song?

You don't remember that old song, he won't leave you there?

I don't remember all of it, but I remember when he would hit that high part, he'd go back up around the raptors.

He won't leave you there.

That's what God's telling you, people.

He will not leave you there.

Maybe you don't know how it's going to work and how it's going to happen, but you've got to keep moving.

You've got to keep going forward.

They were going forward on ground.

It hadn't been dry since creation.

God said, I'll dry it up.

And thousands, if not millions, passed through the Red Sea on dry ground.”

“And when they got to the other side, they didn't look like they'd been through it.

You don't understand what I'm saying?

Because sometimes we see folks, and we think, man, what have they been going through?

Because they look like they've been going through something.

This bunch didn't even have mud on their shoes.

Didn't look like they'd gone through an ocean.



Looked like they'd been out for a walk.

And they walked through it, didn't they? They walked through it.

What you're going through.

You get on the other side of it, with God's help, you won't even look like you've been through anything. You won't even look like it.

That's what God is able to do.

That's what He wants to do on our behalf.”

“When the second verse says, and the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground, and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left hand, waters walled up and they walked right through. Isaiah 43 and 2 says, When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee. When you walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior.

God is our Savior.

Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. He is the solution to your problems.

He is the answer to your prayers.

He is everything, literally everything, you need.

So my question after all this, are we still sitting?

Maybe.

He killed children years ago, old.

He didn't make them go.

He didn't make Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow.

Had children that on their own.

He didn't make Paul get on that ship knowing there was going to be shipwreck.

Didn't make Paul get bit by a serpent.

Those were just the things, the plans.”

“I've talked last week and week before, I get them all jumbled up in my head.

But the fact is, God has a plan for everyone. He literally has a plan for everyone.

That plan involves us keeping moving.

Now, as I mature in life, and deal with the things that life has sent my way, I have found this. Sometimes, if I go out and do a few things, the things I still can do in my head, I can't do otherwise. Well, those are the maturity level of mine.

You know what I'm talking about.

I'm good as long as I keep moving.

But man, when I come in to sit down, oh man, whoo, it's good to sit and rest.

Yeah.

Oh my gosh.

Oh my heavens. I felt fine while I was moving.

I don't feel fine trying to get up and move again.

I mean, the other day I got up, and the person said, what did you say?

I said, oh, because that's what I said."

"I said, oh, and then you get up, and I don't know how sitting in a chair for 15 minutes can aid you in dog years, but it does. You're fine when you sit down, and when you get up, oh my gosh, nothing wants to move, nothing wants to work.

Yes.

You young people, you think, oh, you little crazy old man.

The Lord there is your day's coming, child.

Oh yeah.

How do I know that?

Because I said the same thing.

In life, you got to keep moving.

Things happen in life.

They do. Things happen in life.

But you got to keep moving.

Sickness happens.

We lose loved ones.

Those things happen.

But you got to keep moving.

You can't move.

There's no place to move.

As a church, as a church, we got to keep moving.

We got to keep doing things for the glory of God.

We can't look back and keep rejoicing on how God has blessed us in the past.

God has new blessings in the future.

But they're for us.

If you keep moving, if we embrace this, well, we've done quite a bit.”

“Let's just, let's just take five.

Five turns into ten, ten turns into twenty, and pretty soon ain't nobody doing nothing.

Because we're all on a break.

Well, we are a moving preacher, we're doing all this stuff. Yeah, you're like the children of Izra.

We're walking in circles and not going anywhere and accomplishing anything. God said, we've been here long enough. It's time to move.

It's time to go north. It's time to head to the promises that I had for you 40 years ago. God has plans for this place, for all of you, if you're willing to move into it and trust Him and take Him at His word and embrace His grace.

That's what it's about, church.

That's what it's about.

Let me close with this.

I'm done here, Greg.

It has been my privilege over the last 40 some odd years to try to encourage people, okay?

This should be a big part of what we do, to be encouraging little people, to lift them up, to try to be that bright spot in the midst of a very dark time or a very dark day.”

“And I have been told more times than I can count.

Let's listen to what I'm going to say.

In a few instances, I do know exactly what we're going to do, but I've been through it.

But many more, I don't, that I've not experienced.

This is what the Lord gave me a long time ago when I shared it with every person who says those words to me.

I said, your only problem is you don't believe your own words. And they looked at me and said, what do you mean? I said, you just told me, I don't know what you're going through.

You're going through it, you're not staying in it.

You're going through it.

That's the key. That's the key.

This thing about it, I preached about it. We're going through it.

Whatever you're in right now, if I didn't put you there to stay, you're just going to go through it.

This life we are living is God's gift to us. What we do with it, I think, is our gift to God.

But we are going through this life.

None of us are here to stay.”

“Once we get to the end, we don't get a do-over.

So whatever we're going to do for God, we better do it today.

Because we are not promised tomorrow.”