

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Move On and Move In - Jenna van der Westhuizen

*Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "**Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.**" - Exo 14:13-15*

The Israelites at this moment felt trapped and with nowhere to go. In moments that are full of the unknown it can be easy to want to go back to the familiar. Fear almost caused the Israelites to run from the blessings God wanted them to move into. **God won't lead you somewhere he can't lead you through.**

How do we keep ourselves **moving on** from things that have held us back?

1. **Do not dwell:** "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." - Isa 43:18
2. **Make good choices:** "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" - Deut 30:19
3. **Identify areas of death:** "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world" - Eph 2:1-2a
4. **Get word/truth/life:** "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:32

The Israelites didn't leave Egypt just to escape slavery. They left so that they could move into the promised land; move into the presence of God. We leave behind past bad habits and sins and replace them by **moving into what God is calling us to.**

What does it mean to '**move in**'?

1. **Follow His presence:** The Israelites movements in the desert were guided by the literal presence of God (Exo 40:34-38). The cloud and the fire are a representation of the Holy Spirit, who guides us everyday.
2. **Listen to, and bravely obey His voice:** Hearing God speak has nothing to do with your ability to listen, but God's ability to speak. We become familiar with His voice as we spend more and more time with Him. (John 10:3-4; Jer 33:3).
3. **Offer a sacrifice of praise and worship:** At times, obeying God costs us something. Are we still willing to obey him when it becomes difficult or uncomfortable? (2 Sam 24:24).

Reflection:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit: where and what do I need to move on from? Is it a cycle of sin, unforgiveness, a bad habit or an unhealthy situation? Ask Him to help you let go and show you what it looks like to move on.
2. We are moving on not to make a noise but to move into what God wants for us. Ask Him to show you what He wants you to move into. What does your promised land look like? What is He calling you to walk in that will ultimately lead to blessings?