Faith to Move Forward Sunday, March 13, 2016

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Faith to Move Forward

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV).

Moving Forward in God's plan:

Isaac Went Forward

"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great" Genesis 26:12-13 (KJV).

• He went forward and grew until he became very great!

Reaching Forward

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13 (NKJV).

• Paul knew that the only way to progress in his walk with the Lord was by moving forward!

Tell the Children of Israel to Go Forward!

"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea" Exodus 14:15-16 (NKJV).

- There was no apparent way for the children of Israel to move forward, but they couldn't go back either.
- God said "Go Forward!"

Israel Came to Another Obstacle.

"And Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.' Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, 'Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people'" Joshua 3:5-6 (NKJV).

"So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at

Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan" Joshua 3:14-16 (NKJV).

• The Lord continuously allowed obstacle after obstacle to come before Israel and yet demanded that they Move Forward.

Keep walking in the last word God gave you until you receive another word.

Four Lepers Decided to Move Forward!

"Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, 'Why are we sitting here until we die?' If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die'" 2 Kings 7:3-4 (NKJV).

- They had no chance of survival if they stayed where they were.
- They couldn't change the fact of their sickness, but they had a desire to live.
- They decided to get moving!

Their success depended upon their desire to move forward!

"And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses-- the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, 'Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!'" 2 Kings 7:5-6 (NKJV).

"Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact-- their tents, their horses, and their donkeys-- and they fled for their lives. And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it" 2 Kings 7:7-8 (NKJV).

We must Move Forward!

- As a church we must...MOVE FORWARD!
- As individuals we must... MOVE FORWARD!

It's time to move from ... RELIGION to RELATIONSHIP!

It's time to move from...OBLIGATION to DEDICATION!

And it's time to move from...MEMBERSHIP to MINISTRY!

There is never a time in our lives that we stop moving forward because God is always on the MOVE!