



MOVING FORWARD –

PROGRESS IS ALWAYS THE FRUIT OF DESIGN

Philippians 3:13-14 - Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

What's supposed to happen, will happen, at the right time, in the right place, for the right reasons. Trying to change, we get so are anxious. Be patient and stay open minded to change. "PRESS ON" means that if one way doesn't work, try another. If it did not happen, it wasn't meant for you. Accept that things happen in a different order than you expect. (When it doesn't work out, you don't get rejected. You get re-directed.)

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

New Beginnings often feel like endings. Ending the old will cause you to mourn what you are "loosing," not what you are gaining. STOP FEEING DISAPPOINTED. This is a new chapter.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

When you feel stuck, change something. Shake up your old pattern. Create a new energy. Change your outlook.

Isaiah 43:1-28 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God,

God created you as Jacob but forms you as Israel! We get stuck as Jacob, because we will not let go, we will not forgive, we will not break the chain that holds us. If we let go of Jacob, God has re-formed us to handle Israel. Progress is not the absence of roadblocks. Progress is the ability to deal with roadblocks.

Isaiah 40:31 But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

No strength? Take a small step. CELEBRATE EACH SMALL STEP. No movement? There will be no movement until you move. The journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step.

Exodus 14:15-16 The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

Clear the negative. Negativity makes you feel stuck. Get away from toxic people, mentally or physically. Toxic people – 1) gossip, 2) criticize, 3) waste your time, 4) are jealous of you and others, 5) see themselves as victims, 6) don’t care about you, 7) are self-centered, 8) disappoint you, don’t lift you.

John 5:8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk!”

Don’t fight a gentle push in the right direction. When God gets in your face and practically shouts at you to do something, He is not trying to kill you. Oh, and He will make you go back and TAKE YOUR BAGGAGE with you, so you don’t have the ability to go back to your comfort zone!!

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

We focus on how we almost died, rather than the fact that we are survivors!! We are “glass half-empty” rather than “glass half-full.”

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Rely on your encouragers, rather than your discouragers. Your accountability group pushes you forward, not drags you backwards. God surrounds you with encouragers. Use them.

2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

If you don’t risk and fail, fall and get up, you cannot grow. You can/will fail within the process of succeeding. You are not perfect. It is stressful and hypocritical to pretend you are perfect. Be humble and transparent rather than someone un-human, synthetic and phony. Have standards that are high but realize you are “perfecting” rather than perfect.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

“Sometimes life knocks you on your butt... Get up, get up, get up!!! Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them.” — Steve Maraboli, Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience