

June 16, 2018



## MAKE YOUR MOVE

You know the story. It is a crucial time in the game. It is your turn to move. You know that what you do will determine the outcome of this contest. The right move brings victory and with it celebration. On the other hand, the wrong move leads to defeat then regret and sadness. You hesitate. There is a temptation within you to do nothing. That way you will not fail. This is the path that many take. They do nothing. However, you make it through this hurdle. It is your turn. You now make your move... However, for you it is not a game, it is your life. You are now in a place that you have to make a move.

John 9:18-23 ESV The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight (19) and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" (20) His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. (21) But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (22) (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) (23) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

What was the move of the man born blind's parents? Jesus healed their son after a lifetime of blindness. They could testify to Christ's greatness in doing what no one else could. Now their son's life would be radically changed all because of this man, Jesus. Imagine if it were your son. What would you say? Before you answer, consider this. What if your positive view of Jesus would be scrutinized and cause you to lose favor in the eyes of the leaders of your day? Would you still do it knowing it would cost you? Under this pressure, they did not move at all. They were afraid of what would happen.

Don't be like them. You can't just stay where you are. There is a great deception that I will expose now. Most of you are not in a bad place right now. Your needs are met. Your life is relatively peaceful. Sure, you have some problems, but doesn't everybody? Do not be deceived! There is more to your life than just this. Faintly at first, a call goes forth. I know that there are a lot of other voices around you, but can you hear it? It is the Holy Spirit calling you deeper and further. I have sounded the call. It echoes in your heart. It never really goes away. It repeats again and again awaiting your response.

Some of you see the benefits in answering this call and making your move. Nevertheless, you have not made it yet. Why? You are facing similar pressure to the blind man's parents. Someone or something tells you to conform to the popular thought of society. While it may very well be a person demanding this, it often is the predominant philosophy of a region that expects you to follow it. Making your move to go deeper and higher in God puts you in direct conflict with them. You are scared of what will happen.

It is easier to heed another common philosophy that tries to get you to *avoid conflicts* at all times. It treats all conflict as the enemy. When these things come against what God has for you, they **must be confronted**. This conflict is necessary. The result will be worth it. Considered the words of Jesus: **Matthew 10:34 ESV "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** Jesus did not bring conflict for conflict's sake. He knew that the only way to set the people free and bring them into fullness was through dealing with the one that is currently holding them captive. It is the same today. They want to dominate you and never let you step out of line. Stop them!

Dare to step out. It is your move. Make it now. Run after your savior. You won't regret it.

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