

## MOVE WITH GOD BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONES

When Nikita Khrushchev was premier of the Soviet Union, he denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin. In a public meeting he was interrupted by a shout from a heckler in the audience. "You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?" Khrushchev yelled back, "Who said that?" Nobody answered or moved a muscle. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, "Now you know why."

Our fears may not be that major, but sometimes we let our lives be hindered by the fear of change. 100 years ago, someone prayed, "Lord, help us to be right, for you know how hard it is to change." That prayer is still being prayed today. L. Tolstoy once said, "Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself."

We get to the place where we have a certain comfort zone in our lives, and we fear moving out of it. Today, some of us are being robbed of the best days of our lives and our dreams because of our fears of leaving our comfort zones. Some comfort zones are not life hindering, but some can be the biggest obstacle to fulfilling our God-given dreams. If you are a Christian, and if you are walking with God, the chances are He is leading you to make some kind of change in your life. God is leading many of us to dream again a new dream for our lives.

Paul Borthwick, in "How to Be A World Class Christian," writes that breaking out of our comfort zone is moving from being a spectator to a participant. When God challenges us to a new dream, He is doing so because He loves us.

What about Jesus? He left Heaven. Talk about comfort zones. He became a man, and He died for you and me? Was the cross really necessary? Was there no other way? Just as we ask if it is necessary for our young soldiers to die on the field of battle, we ask, was it necessary for Christ to die on Calvary's tree? Yes, it was, and we better thank God that Jesus was willing to take the risk.

Now, it is our turn, in a much smaller way, to get uncomfortable for Jesus, and it may mean facing some fears we have.

Are we talking about being missionaries to Iraq, or something similar today? Maybe, but it is possible that God is challenging you to do something that may not seem as much of a big deal to you but is still vitally important to the cause of kingdom work. It may be to get involved in an area of ministry within or outside the church building. It may be approaching someone who needs Christ that God has placed in your path.

Why is it that we expect life to be easy? Yet the things that are most rewarding in life are those things that cost us. We've got to recognize that the purpose of life isn't our comfort. The purpose of life is to glorify God.

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