

One More Move

- One of our Pentecostal expressions is “a move of God.” We’re constantly talking about it because we constantly desire it! The truth is probably that WE need to move much more than GOD does, but we understand the expression through years of use.
- The dictionary defines the word “MOVE” as: change, progress, put in motion, exhibit great activity or energy, initiate, act, stir the emotions.
- Our God is a living, moving being; that’s why there is movement and life in any meeting where real worshippers gather!

Genesis 1:2 And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Judges 13:25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him.

Psalms 68:8 Even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God.

Psalms 99:1 The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Isaiah 6:4 The posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried.

Isaiah 19:1 The idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence.

Matthew 9:36, 14:14, Mark 1:41, 6:34 – Jesus moved with compassion

Matthew 21:10 All the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

John 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Song of Solomon 5:4 (KJV) My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.

Song of Solomon 5:4 (NIV) My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him.

- The devil works constantly to detour, defeat, and delay the moving of God’s Spirit in our lives. He will use any situation, circumstance or individual that he can to get between you and God’s purpose for your life. And he wins to the extent that you let him influence your outlook, hinder your faith, destroy your hope, or block your response to God’s Spirit in any service. He doesn’t want you to be moved!

- Satan often wins by default because we seldom believe in him anymore. Researcher George Barna found that only 40% of North Americans believe that Satan is real. 69% of Catholics and 65% of Protestants believe that Satan is only symbolic of evil. But if he is not an actual person, then the Bible is false, for it portrays an ongoing conflict between God and Lucifer. Mankind became involved in the Garden of Eden when he became the unwitting pawn of the devil’s revenge on God. Satan had a choice to serve God and refused; he is jealous of our choice (our chance to repent) and wants to insure that we refuse also! Satan was successful in leading Adam and Eve into sin, but God moved in once more and spoke this promise:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- From that moment, Satan began working feverishly to launch a preemptive strike against God by aborting the line through which the Messiah was to come, to stop the people of God at all costs!
 - He filled Cain with enough hatred to murder his righteous brother Abel. **God had one more move** – He raised up Seth.
 - He led mankind into enough wickedness that God destroyed the world in a flood. **God had one more move** – He raised up Noah.
 - He deceived men with false religions that worshipped the gods of nature. **God had one more move** – He raised up Abraham.
 - He caused Pharaoh to issue a death warrant for all Hebrew baby boys. **God had one more move** – He thwarted his plan through Pharaoh’s daughter ... and the tears of a baby named Moses.
 - He tempted Israel into lustful orgies before a golden calf. **God had one more move** – He raised up the sons of Levi.
 - He bribed the prophet Balaam to curse the nation of Israel. **God had one more move** – He took control of Balaam’s tongue.
 - He frightened the spies with the giants of the land of Canaan. **God had one more move** – He raised up Joshua and Caleb.
 - He tried to starve out the nation through the raids of the Midianites. **God had one more move** – He raised up Gideon.
 - He bound the strongman Samson with cords of lust that he could not break, and handed him over to the Philistines to rot in a prison. **God had one more move** – He gave Samson his greatest victory when he repented in his lowest moment.
 - He polluted the priesthood of Israel through the wickedness of Eli’s sons. **God had one more move** – He raised up Samuel.
 - He snared King Saul with the sin of pride. **God had one more move** – He raised up a man after his own heart named David.
 - He caused Queen Athaliah to kill off the royal seed. **God had one more move** – He used Jehoiada the priest to hide little Joash.
 - He helped Haman hatch his plot of genocide against the Jews. **God had one more move** – He raised up Queen Esther.

- **God always reserves the last move for Himself!** We often assume that because we feel limited by our personal problems, that our situation somehow limits God. That is simply not true!
- Consider this story I read recently of a young man named Joe ben Yakob. He was really just a young kid when he entered the technology sector, where his engaging personality and easy grasp of business skills quickly propelled him ahead of everyone else at the biggest company in his small hometown. The CEO made no secret of taking a shine to him, and Joe knew that some day he could easily become president of the firm, but he made one terrible tactical error – he let the eleven equally-ambitious coworkers in his department know about his lofty aspirations. From then on, it was all out war every single day at work. The CEO was elderly and probably a bit naïve, so he was blissfully unaware of the corporate chaos that was about to unfold in the offices downstairs.

It was on one very ordinary Monday morning that the resentment of Joe's coworkers resulted in the absolute worst day of his life. He didn't have a clue that the hostile takeover was coming – he was totally unprepared. With a series of well-placed traps and well-timed lies, they assassinated his character and trashed his professional reputation before Joe even had his first cup of coffee at break on that fateful day. The impeccably fabricated evidence was so convincing that even Joe knew he could never return to work at the company – they didn't have to fire him, he resigned in disgrace before the newspapers broke the horrible financial scandal that only he knew was absolutely false.

No one would hire Joe ben Yakob anywhere in the state after that. He was forced to relocate to a third world country and go to work for a foreign corporation that offered meager pay and almost no benefits. Not only did the former golden boy have to learn new operating systems, he now had to negotiate a new culture that was incredibly strange to him. In time however, his people skills and talent once again carried him to the front of the pack. But worse disaster was lurking right around the corner.

It was late on a Monday afternoon when it happened – when the secretary with the tight clothes and loose morals finally made her play for the handsome new man in the office. Joe almost threw it all away in that moment, whether because of lust, anger, bitterness, or boredom he couldn't say. Everyone else had gone home, so it really wouldn't have mattered ... or would it? He would tell you even today that only God saved him from really messing up his life that Monday.

Joe had never heard the saying "Hell hath no fury like a woman spurned," but he experienced it firsthand the very next morning. It was déjà vu, watching helplessly once again as his reputation was destroyed. With the language and cultural barriers working against him, Joe couldn't even attempt to explain his side of the story. The charge was attempted rape, and not one lawyer in the city would touch his case – under their law, he was already convicted.

It took months of effort, but Prisoner # 58672 finally got to talk with some influential people in government about his case. They seemed willing to help at the time, but apparently put his case at the bottom of the pile and conveniently forgot all about him. By now, Joe has served several years of prison time. One would expect him to be quite bitter, but strangely that is not the case. He still irrationally expects God to somehow come through for him.

By the way, it's Joseph, son of Jacob; brothers, not coworkers; Pharaoh's wife, not a secretary. But the prison, the hurt, the betrayal, the abandonment, the pain, and the long days and nights of waiting – they feel just the same today as they did back 5000 years ago.

- **But God always reserves the last move for Himself!** In His perfect timing, He brought Joseph to the throne of Egypt, brought a famine to Israel, and brought Joseph's brothers to a place of repentance. And Joseph – after all he had been through – could still rejoice to see the hand of God in every one of his trials!

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

- In October 1861, shortly after the onset of the American Civil War, chess champion Paul Morphy visited the home of friends in Richmond, Virginia. During the meal at the home of Rev. & Mrs. Howison, he was mesmerized by a painting by artist Moritz Retzsch that hung on their wall. It depicted the legend of German alchemist Dr. Faust, who sold his soul to the devil in exchange for power and knowledge. In the painting, the devil has come to collect his part of the bargain – the soul of Faust – and the artist portrays this moment as a chess game between the two. The painting was titled "Checkmate." For non-chess players, that means that the devil has Faust cornered; he has no moves left, his king is open to capture, and on his next move the devil can capture Faust's king no matter where Faust moves it. The game is over. But as Paul Morphy stood transfixed by the work of art, he suddenly began to point excitedly: "The game's not over! The king still has one more move!"

- **God always reserves the last move for Himself!**

- **At Calvary, God reserved the last move for Himself!**

1 Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- **In the New Birth, God reserved the last move for Himself!**

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.