

Walking With God Through Life's Transitions

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I. What is a Life Transition?

A. Change in circumstances brought into your life through own decision or a decision of another including God's sovereignty that requires you to adjust one or more of the following:

Behavior	Personal discipline	Spiritual Growth
Time schedule	Relationships	Fellowship with God
Emotions	Work	God's Will for Future
Stress level	Financial perspective	Actions
Physical responses	Spiritual Activities	

B. Some transitions bring great joy and success.

C. Major life transitions:

Leaving	Personal health	Retirement
Work	Family health	Death
Possessions	Rejection	Divorce of children
Ministry fruitfulness	Citizenship	Changing location
Marriage	Spiritual leadership	Changing pastors
Having children	Moral sin	Children moving back
Church	Grandchildren	home
Finances debt	Aging	

II. Constants that shouldn't be affected by transitions:

A. Our relationship with God.

1. This can't be broken. (Hebrews 10:14)
2. But practice of perfection requires spiritual growth. (2 Peter 3:18)
3. Fellowship with God can be broken through sinning. (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13)

B. Our life purpose.

1. This is what we believe god wants us to give our lives in exchange for.
2. Our statement may expand but focus and direction the same.

III. We should live our lives by priorities.

Walk with God	Extended family	Personal development
Personal health	Jobs	Societal priorities
Husband /wife – parent/children	Ministry	
	Social relationship	

IV. Perspective on transitions.

A. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

B. God will purify our faith. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

1. Thank god for the irritation, there is an ultimate purpose.
2. Identify possible causes.
3. Determine ultimate.

C. Through him we can go through it and be victorious. (Philippians 4:12-13. 1 Corinthians 10:1, Philippians 4:4)

D. When we suffer, He suffers. (Colossians 1:24)

E. He will never leave us. (Hebrews 13:5)

F. He is at work in our lives to fulfill His purposes.

1. Ultimate purpose. (Isaiah 14:26-27)
2. Individual purpose. (Jeremiah 29:11)

G. Don't complain against God. (Job 38:1-3, 40:2)

H. Can't take a vacation from trusting God.

I. Learn to rejoice in our circumstances. (2 Corinthians 11)

J. We are going through only a little suffering in this life. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

K. Live with an eternal perspective. (Isaiah 6:1-3, Romans 5:2, Revelation 20:4)

L. God predestined us to be conformed to his image. (Romans 8:29)

M. We are chosen and appointed to bear eternal fruit. (John 15:16)

V. Groups sharing their ideas

A. Transition to Marriage

1. Independence to interdependence.
2. Decision making is key.
3. Must continue to be selfless.

3. Resolution instead of compromise.

B. Personal Health

1. God loves us how we are now.

C. Death

1. Can face death only with Christ.

2. Rejoice for life that was lived.

3. Spiritual family to lean on is key.

D. Chronic Disease

1. God is shaping our lives to accept Him.

2. Instead of feeling permanently on the shelf, you can accept it by trusting the Lord's wisdom. (Romans 8:28)

E. Finances

1. Most of solutions are found in tithing.

2. Find out what you need not what you want.

3. Budgeting is important.

F. Children

1. Praying for your kids.

2. Make sure you have someone older to be an encouragement.

3. Recognize that God is faithful.

G. Spiritual Leadership

1. Need to spend adequate time with followers.

2. Find someone to mentor you in the process.

3. Find good teammates to be accountable to and that can pray for you.

H. Possessions

1. Purchases.

- a. Is it a need or desire?

b. Have you prayed for it?

c. How does it affect

i. your resources?

ii. your budget?

iii. your witness?

2. Giving generously.

a. Contribute to where you are being blessed.

b. What fruit is in the ministry you are giving to?

I. Ministry Fruitfulness

1. Must have the right perspective.

a. Faithfulness versus worldly success.