

MOVEMENT

By: Joshua Bridges

If your heart stops moving right now you will die. If the electrical activity of the brain ceases to move and be active then you will be a “vegetable.” If the earth’s fresh water supplies stopped moving and became stagnant it would become poisonous. When there was some movement on the floor of the Pacific Ocean in December of 2004 it created tsunami waves that took the lives of some 300,000 people. Movement affects things and causes change, and for there to be life there must be *movement*, in the natural as well as in the spiritual.

The International Pentecostal Holiness Church should never be known as merely a denomination or another “church” in town. We must ever increasingly direct our energies to being a relevant and powerful disciple making, church planting *movement*. When the Spirit of God breathes the breath of Himself into our midst we are bound to experience life and therefore experience *movement*.

There are two main illustrations I think of when I think of the kind of relevant, society-impacting movement God wants His body to be. First, I think of a mudslide. A mudslide is nothing more than dirt, (a lot of dirt), and water. Combine the dirt on a hillside with plenty of rain and it becomes a force to be reckoned with that transforms landscapes. The dirt within itself doesn’t make a very powerful force but when combined with the rain water it becomes a force that moves houses and wipes out entire neighborhoods. Genesis 1:28 (NASB) reads “God blessed them; and God said to them, “...fill the earth and *subdue* it.””” The destructive force of the mudslide although negative in the natural, is a vivid picture of the destructive force that we are to be to the kingdom of the enemy. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers two thousand years ago that, “...the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the *destruction of fortresses*.” (NASB) We within ourselves cannot do it but when combined with the power of Spirit of God, unity and *movement*, we will be a spiritual mudslide in transforming our spiritual landscapes.

The second illustration I think of is an army. Psalm 144:1 says, “Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle” (NIV). Also, II Timothy 2:3 says, “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.” It is time for the people of God to understand that when we surrender our lives to Christ we are enlisting in the army of the Lord. It is no more God’s will for different parts of the body to war against one another than it is for us to sit on pews and wait for the rapture. The Lord wants His body to wage war against the forces of the enemy and advance the Kingdom of Heaven in this world by taking our communities with the power of the full gospel.

So what does it mean for the International Pentecostal Holiness Church to have *movement mentality*? First of all, I believe it means that we always keep the Great

Commission, (Matthew 28:18-20), the central mission statement of the church so that the IPHC may be known as a “Great Commission Movement.”

Secondly, it means that we are in cooperation with the whole body of Christ, emphasizing the unity of the whole body, and at the same time the IPHC also maintains our distinctive characteristics and doctrinal emphases.

Thirdly, having *movement mentality* means that we must always be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit into new areas of ministry and ways of thinking. We must be willing to shed old ways of doing things by being open to the progressive revelations that God gives. The IPHC needs to affirm and embrace new ideas and modes of ministry that are Biblically sound and are proven to be Spirit-inspired. Pentecostal people are the last people who should be closed minded or resistant to new movements of the Spirit’s renewal of that which is apostolic, prophetic, or overall strengthening to the body. That is the very reason we were ostracized and persecuted 100 years ago.

Finally, it means that we cast clear vision for the future and set clear goals by not asking the Lord to get involved with and bless what we are doing, but by us getting involved in the work that He is doing through His body worldwide.

In Matthew 16:24(NASB) Jesus said, “If anyone desires to *come after* Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and *follow* Me.” To be a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ means that a person must move. As the IPHC continues to become a spiritual mudslide and an army we will understand more fully why the demons “believe and tremble” (James 2:19). They tremble from the powerful force of our *movement*.

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