



Triumphing in ...  
times of transition



Acts 20:18-38



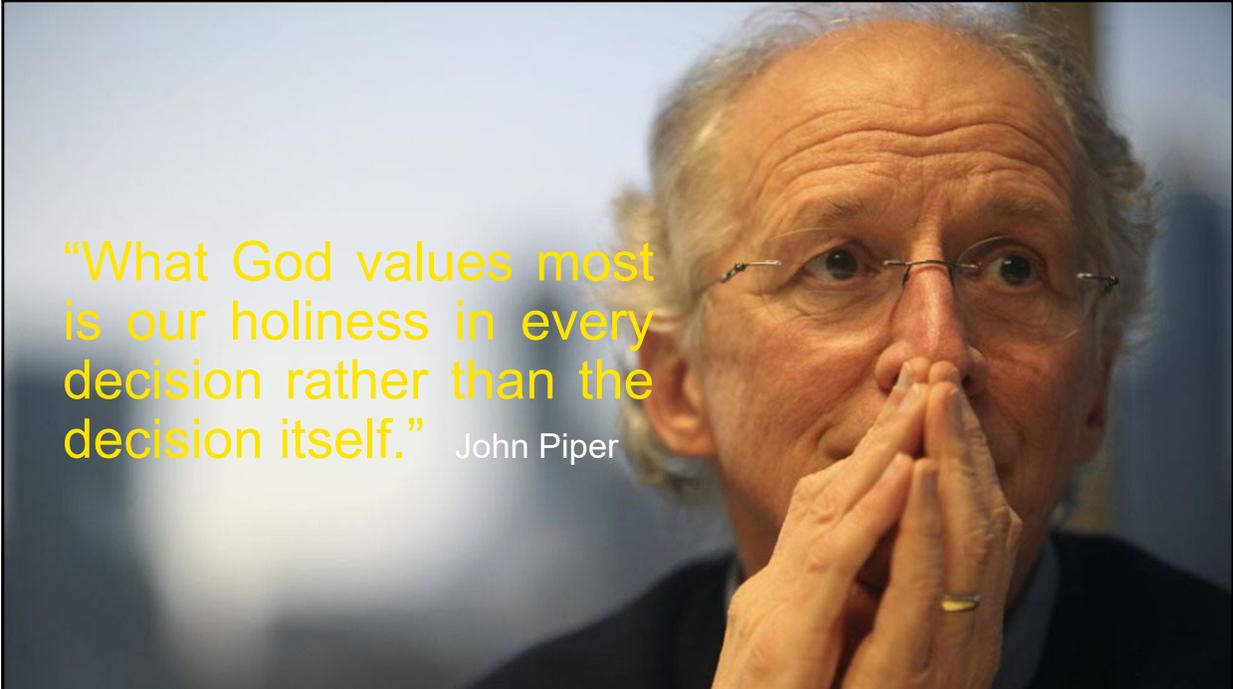
**“Sometimes God brings times of transition to create transformation.”** Lynn Cowell



“When you boil life down to the basics, the name of the game is *change*. Those who flex with the times, refuse to be rigid, resist the mold, and reject the rut – ah, *those* are the souls distinctively used by God. To them, change is a challenge, a fresh breeze that flows through the room of routine and blows away the stale air of sameness. It seldom fails to stimulate and invigorate ... and it often serves as oil on the rusty gate of habit. ... God did not give us His Word to satisfy our curiosity; He gave it to change our lives.” Chuck Swindoll

**1 Cor 13:9,12** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ...  
**12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

**Acts 16:6-10** Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.



**"What God values most is our holiness in every decision rather than the decision itself."** John Piper

## 1. Transition is about looking forward – not condemning the past

**Acts 20:18-21,26-27** “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ... <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

## 2. Transition is about obedience – not convenience

**Acts 20:22-25** And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

“If transition isn’t painful then you aren’t making progress.” Anonymous

### 3. Transition can be dangerous – the enemy can exploit it

**Acts 20:28-31** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

## 4. Transition must be faithfully embraced

**Acts 20:36-38** And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

**“The single most significant decision you make each day is your choice of attitude.”**

Chuck Swindoll