



Life is filled with adjustments. If something is being adjusted, there is change; there is movement; there is variation. Many of us do not like change — we avoid adjustment.

There are valid reasons we abhor adjustments and do not adhere to adjustments. Change can bring conflict. Alterations can bring altercations. For Israel, “there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.” We find this in Exodus 1:8. The number “8” means new beginnings, but this adjustment for God’s people meant hard times ahead. The unknown future can elicit fear or faith.

When a chiropractor makes an adjustment, he realigns your body so that joints and vertebrae fit together properly. There can be soreness and stiffness in the aftermath, but normally things improve with time. With any adjustment, you sacrifice the present (comfort, ease, familiarity) for the future.

What an adjustment, when Adam and Eve were evicted from the Garden of Eden. They move from a garden to a field, from flowers and fruit to weeds and work, from paradise, peace, and perfection to “blood, sweat and tears.” Their move to East of Eden (Genesis 3:24) was a tough adjustment. East of Eden, they lost two sons the same day. The death of a loved one, especially of a spouse or child, is one of the biggest adjustments anyone faces — it is tough. We have been without our son

Austin five years — hard to believe. You don’t get through it; you learn to live with it — the new normal.

Moses had adjustment after adjustment. He was born a Jew; grew up an Egyptian. He forsook the palace but was forsaken by his own people. Burning bushes are not campfires to sit around and make smores. When Moses needed a critical adjustment (speak to the rock the second time — not strike the rock as the first time), he did not comply and did not get to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. He finally got there on the Mount of Transfiguration 1,500 years later, but what an adjustment.

Paul had adjustments — the big one came on the Damascus Road. He went on to Damascus, but his life and ministry did an “about face.” He shares some of his experiences in II Corinthians 11:23 - 27 (stoning, shipwreck, imprisonment). As he made adjustments, he “learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content,” Philipians 4:11 KJV.

I am so very grateful for my three years of working with Dr. Futral — what a blessing! We need to pray for him and his family and for our search committee. For all of us, there will be an adjustment.

Adjustments

There will be an army of new public servants across the street come January. There will be adjustments here and back home for these newly elected state officials. We need to pray for them and their spouses and families. Many men and women who have devoted their lives to our state will stay home in January — a huge adjustment.

I am the pot calling the kettle black when it comes to adjustments. Confession is good for the soul. When I took the battery of tests to enter the doctoral program at New Orleans Seminary, they called me in for a consultation. They explained that I was one of the most “rigid” personalities they had tested at New Orleans. I joked that in northeast Mississippi we didn’t call it “rigid,” we called it “a man of convictions.” They didn’t think it was funny.

Adjustments are needed in our Christian walk. Flexibility is required. On a mission trip to Rome, in orientation, they said we needed to be “fluid.” I recognize a need to be more flexible, but not fluid.

While playing the game of chess, you protect your king and queen. But as the game progresses, the board changes. What was safe is now at

risk. My family knows that when I say, “I don’t play chess well,” I mean I don’t adjust to life easily. But we must learn to adjust.

Justification is a positional adjustment. Sanctification is an ongoing, progressive adjustment. Glorification is a permanent adjustment — Hallelujah! Once we get our glorified body at the rapture and resurrection (I John 3:2), there will be no more mortal adjustments. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

There are good adjustments and bad adjustments. There are big adjustments — aging or a baby — and there are small adjustments — keeping up with your coat when winter is new. There are physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual adjustments. Too often, in my experiences, it is “the little foxes, that spoil the grapes,” Song of Solomon 2:15 KJV. An “attitude adjustment” can be the hardest of all. Your next adjustment or lack thereof will make you better or bitter; will make you or break you. The holidays are a critical time to make needed adjustments. Enjoy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

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