

INERTIA

Inertia is the tendency to resist change.

We learned in physics “a body in motion tends to remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force, and a body at rest will remain at rest unless acted upon by an outside force.”

This tendency to resist change is also evidenced in businesses, churches, relationships and individuals. We like “comfortable,” we like “growth,” but we don’t really like “change.”

Over a decade ago Dr. Abraham Twerski, MD, created a short video that went viral recounting an article he read in a magazine in his doctor’s office titled, “**How Lobsters Grow.**” Part of his transcript: *“A lobster is a soft mushy animal that lives inside of a rigid shell. That rigid shell does not expand as the lobster grows. As the lobster grows that shell becomes very confining and the lobster feels itself under pressure and uncomfortable. So, it goes under a rock formation to protect itself from predatory fish, it casts off the old shell and produces a new one. Well, as it continues to grow, eventually that shell becomes very uncomfortable, so it goes right back under the rocks and the lobster repeats the process. The stimulus for the lobster to be able to grow is that it feels uncomfortable. And if we use adversity properly, we can grow through adversity.”*

I am reminded of Joseph. He had been betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, but ended up being bought by Potiphar, a wealthy and highly respected Egyptian. Joseph had it really good compared to the other Hebrew slaves. One might think he had become “comfortable” in his position of “estate manager” for Potiphar.

But he was not where God intended for him to be. **Joseph had not realized God’s dream for him** of his father and mother and brothers bowing before him; he had just ascended to a plateau from which to mount his final ascent. So, like the lobster, Joseph had to “go under a rock formation,” a literal pit, to shed the comfortable shell to which he had become accustomed. It was out of this adversity that he grew to be the vice-ruler of all of Egypt. To overcome his inertia, God had to act upon him as “an outside force.”

The same for Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Job, David, Elijah, Elisha, and on and on and on...

Let’s get personal. Do you remember the day God’s Holy Spirit convicted you of your sin and caused you to realize you were an enemy of Almighty God? How an awful fear gripped you and you cried out for God to save you? Much like Peter drowning and screaming out to Jesus, “**SAVE ME!!**” Can you recall the peace that flooded your heart when Jesus came into your body and set up permanent residence in your inner man? And you couldn’t wait to tell somebody – ANYBODY – what had just happened to you?

What has happened since? Does the fire still burn as hot?

Or has an outside force acted against you to cool you down and make you “comfortable”?

DIVINE FAVOR MINISTRIES

Let's go back to our physics lab. A pendulum could swing forever in a vacuum, because there would be no "outside force" to resist its motion. However, outside that vacuum, "friction and air resistance slow it down causing it to eventually stop swinging." (Weebly.com)

If you are "less hot" than before, what are the "outside forces" that have slowed you down in your walk with Jesus? Or that sidelined you completely?

Work? Family? Illness? Lack of work? Prosperity? Lust? Greed? Sports? Social activities? Charitable causes? Politics? Social media? TV? Entertainment? Bible studies? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Whatever it may look like, be assured there is a demonic agent actively working to keep you away from Jesus. Very much like 'Wormwood' in C.S. Lewis's Screwtape Letters.

So, if we have become "a (spiritual) body at rest," how do we overcome inertia in our spiritual life to regain momentum in our relationship with Jesus?

It's called "revival."

Revival is for Born Again, soundly saved believers, not lost unbelievers. Viva means "life." Revival means to come back to life. Someone who is dead in their trespasses and sin cannot be revived – they are DEAD! Only a cooled down, lukewarm Christian can be revived.

But we have been conditioned to believe revival is a series of meetings inserted in a church's calendar (nothing wrong with that). But God's Holy Spirit can bring you and me into a personal revival anytime we are willing to change. We can wait for God to bring an outside force against us to break us out of our inertia, but, if we are wise, we will make seeking revival of our intimacy with our Lord Jesus our number one priority.

Invite the Holy Spirit to kickstart your passion for Jesus and His call on your life – TODAY!

Father God,

Thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die in my place, taking my just punishment to His cross on my behalf, and for Your Holy Spirit convicting me of my enmity against You and drawing me to the Old Rugged Cross. MY cross upon which Jesus died for ME!

Forgive me, Father, for allowing the cares of this condemned world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things to enter into my life and cause me to become unfruitful or less fruitful in service for Your Kingdom.

Father, I give you unconditional, irrevocable permission to prune me as the faithful and wise vinedresser to cut away all that is hindering my walk with Jesus that I may know Him more fully and produce more fruit, larger fruit, sweeter fruit for His glory!

As Jesus embraced the cross for the joy set before Him, may I herewith embrace the crucible for the exceeding great joy of knowing Him in the fulness of His glory. I pray You would align my heart to Your purposes for my life and never leave me nor forsake me during my journey. Reignite my love for You! Increase my faith in Jesus! Fill me with Your Holy Spirit!

In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!