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Several months ago I was having coffee with some men and at the table next to us were two men playing chess. At a point during their game an expression was stated by the one who lost, which caught my attention. He said: "All lost because of one move". The Holy Spirit began to make me think of those who made "one move" and lost more than a mere game.

- a) Adam made "one move", he took a bite of the fruit, and it brought all creation under condemnation and the curse. (Rom. 5:12-19)
- b) Abraham made "one move", he went down into Egypt and what repercussions it had on his family. He had his wife tell lies and put her in moral danger; it affected the life of the Egyptians for the judgment of God came on him; it affected his testimony with the pagan king and it affected his nephew Lot, for when the time came for separation, Lot saw Sodom as the well watered plains of Egypt, and chose them. It was just like Egypt. Who brought him into Egypt? His Uncle Abraham, and the one move by Uncle Abraham spelt ruination for the younger man. (Gen. 12:10, 11, 17, 19-20; 13:10)
- c) Achan made "one move", it cost him open embarrassment and the death of all his family. What must he have felt when he realized that because of the "one move" he had made his children and grandchildren would die? (Josh. 7:1, 21, 25)
- d) David made "one move", he took Bathsheba and what darkness it brought him into. He orchestrated a man's death, tried to quiet the conscience of Joab, and four of his sons died tragically. (2 Sam. 11:2, 15, 25; 12:18; 13:28-29; 18:9-15; 1 Kgs. 2:19-25)
- e) David made "one move" and despite protest named the people, unaware he was the tool of Satan and thousands in Israel died. (1 Chron. 21:1, 14)
- f) Peter made "one move" and went into the palace of the High Priest and came out of it a broken man having denied the Lord. (Matt. 26:58, 75)

However, most times before a move is made there is a decision made. For example, "shall we move from this house to another?" Other considerations then come into focus:

- a) "Should we make this move?"
- b) "Why should we make this move?"
- c) "What are the long term consequences going to be if we make or don't make this move?"

There is an old principle for living, "Look before you leap". If people had only thought out or considered the consequences of their "moves", I wonder if they would do differently?

- a) Madelyn Murray O'Hare made a decision to deny the existence of God. That decision drove her to the move of having Bible recitation banned in public schools. What was her reason? The woman hated God so much that she wanted to do all she could to eradicate all consciousness of God from the schools. What disastrous results have come from that. The educational system was bereft of prayer to the Almighty and the reading of His word. Therefore, the moral compass of millions was cast aside and replaced with agnosticism and atheism.
- b) In the famous case of Roe verses Wade, a decision was made to legalize abortions. Why? It was to give women liberation of their own bodies. The result of that move is millions of babies have been slaughtered.
- c) Demas made a decision because the cost of living for God in this world was too costly, and it resulted in the move to leave Paul. The last chronological comment by the Holy Spirit on Demas was: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world". (2 Tim. 4:10)

In every case it only took a decision and "one move"!

I think of another decision which was made in the far reaches of eternity past. Before God created the Heaven or earth, there were three magnificent Persons. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that dwelt in love and glory. In that state of perfection they made a series of decisions and one of them was the promise of eternal life (Titus 1:2). The wonder of this is that it was not a promise to fallen man, but God promised Himself the provision of eternal life. This opens the questions of: "Who would it be for, why should it be given, and what would necessitate such a need?" In the foreknowledge of God He knew Adam would sin and bring all humanity under condemnation

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(Rom. 5:12-19). However, in the richness of His love, mercy, and grace, divine persons made a way whereby their “banished be not expelled from Him” (2 Sam. 14:14) forever. It was a plan of unimaginable magnitude, fraught with difficulties and satanic opposition. For this plan to succeed the Son would become a human being. He would live in a hostile environment and ultimately go to the cross of Calvary, or the Holy Spirit’s gracious convicting being suppressed?

- a) The first major move was: “When the fulness of the time was come” (Gal. 4:4); the Son came into this world (1 Jn. 4:9) sent by the Father (1 Jn. 4:14); not as a theophany but as a real human being, being made in the likeness of men (Phil. 2:7).
- b) The next major “move” was his unreserved following the will of God, for in Gethsemane He said: “Not my will, but Thine, be done” (Lk. 22:42). That resulted in the humiliation in Pilate’s Judgment Hall, mocked by the religious leaders and Herod, and eventually being crucified.
- c) The next major move was when God made to meet upon Him the iniquity of us all on the cross to bear the sins of audacity, arrogance, self will, and blatant rejection of God’s overtures of mercy. It would necessitate the God-man, Jesus, experiencing being accursed by God, being chastised, scourged and afflicted by God though He had never rebelled. (Isa. 53:4-6, 8, 12)
- d) The next stupendous “move” was when Christ died (Lk. 23:46). This was not simply the physical death of a man, it was a work of divine power. This was three days later followed by the “move” of God’s power when Christ was raised from the dead.
- e) Then another glorious move. Christ ascended on high and sat at the right hand of the majesty on high (Eph. 4:8; Heb. 1:1-3). A matter of days later another “move” was made when the Holy Spirit came (Lk. 24:49), and since then has sought to convict men of their sins and bring them to repentance and reconciliation with God.

Why would God devise such a plan when it meant His beloved Son suffering beyond comprehension. One verse sums it all up:

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”
(Jn. 3:16)***

**“For God” - the greatest Person
“So loved” - the greatest affection
“The world” - the greatest scope
“That He gave” - the greatest provision
“His only begotten Son” - the greatest person
“That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” - the greatest promise**

Thank God there has been one move millions have made which has resulted in having eternal life. They made a decision, they contemplated why the “move” should be made”, they reviewed the results of accepting the offer of salvation or rejecting it, **BUT** that decision did not save them. They were saved eternally when:

- a) They accepted the finished work of Christ
- b) They accepted Christ as their Saviour and
- c) They transferred their faith from their works to the finished work of Christ.

As we look back at 2013 and review our “moves”, some may have been inconsequential but there are others which have brought sorrow and bitter tears to ourselves, or parents, or children, or spouse. We cannot change the “one move” of yesterday, but as we begin 2014 there can be an endeavor to make the moves of this year in fellowship with God. Each of us can think of some good “one moves” to make. Not such things as “lose some weight”, “drive more carefully”, etc., but “moves” that will result in me being more Christlike.

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It would be a good “one move” to:

- a) Start each day in fellowship with God by thanking Him for the blessings of the past night, and entering “His gates with thanksgiving” (Psa. 100:4)
- b) Seek to not do “one move” for which I cannot pray and ask God’s help for, or thank Him when it is done, thus: “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:6)
- c) Read the scriptures, not as a “thing to be done” to ease the conscience, or because that is what believers ought to do, but to muse on them as read, really reading what is written that they may be a light and a lamp. (Psa. 119:105)
- d) Honestly spend time speaking to God and Father each day by beginning with worship of the Father for: “the Father seeketh such to worship Him” (Jn. 4:23)
- e) Pray for a burden for genuineness of spirituality and help to throw off the filthy robe of “spiritual appearance” which is hypocrisy, for the Lord said: “Beware ye of the leaven (sin) of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Lk. 12:1)
- f) Be shown what is grieving to God in my life, and ask Him for help to be free from it. (Psa. 139:23)

May each of us be kept in the fellowship of His person and the enjoyment of His love in 2014, for His glory.

. . . *Rowan Jennings*