

(continued from the front)

**We need to move beyond our expectations.** Our achievements will only be as high as our highest goals. If we aspire to be pew warmers only, that is all we will be. Our minds will not be engaged in the private study of God's Word, and our faith will not be challenged by the Bible's clash with the world in our daily lives. We dare not be content with just being religious. Here is a challenge for us: "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). That ought to raise our goal.

**We need to move beyond our hurts, losses, and failures.** There is no doubt that in this world we will have tribulation (John 16:33) or trouble. Persecution is to be expected (2 Timothy 3:12). Physical accidents and health failures occur regularly, as does death. Christians are not immune to any of these things. Therefore, when these things happen in our lives, we must approach them in a realistic yet optimistic manner. This in no way minimizes the importance of our health or the personhood of those we love. However, if we cannot accept the loss of something or someone who is truly gone from this life, we will suffer serious mental and spiritual consequences.

**We need to move beyond the expectations of others.** We all have certain limitations. They may be in our physical makeup or circumstances. However, we can move beyond some of those limitations. For example, we may hold a job that pays minimum wage, but that does not mean that we and the job are insignificant. We can work enthusiastically at any job (Ecclesiastes 9:10). We can do the best we can with what God has given and be satisfied in the realization that we have done so.

Growth, by its nature, means moving beyond the present circumstances to even better circumstances. If we approach it in that manner, even the most disheartening circumstances can be faced with courage and optimism. Let us go beyond—and grow.

Lance Cordle



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## Growing by Going Beyond



We have all seen a toddler crawling around a room, eagerly eyeing furniture that can be used for leverage when the time comes for pulling

up. We have seen a toddler reach the pull-up stage and move to walking. We rightly praise and encourage such behavior. We know that growth is only achieved by going beyond present circumstances. What we sometimes forget is that we adults also need to grow. That growth, though it may be imperceptible to the eye, is still real growth. Let us consider some things we need to move beyond to grow spiritually.

### Elders

Ron Akers  
Phil Degelia  
Tim Simmons

### Deacons

Mike Fox  
(Building and Grounds)  
Jeff Kiel  
(Building and Grounds)  
Dean Rosser  
(Safety)  
Roland Snipes  
(Benevolence)  
Keith Tolbert  
(Education)

### Minister

Bryan Winn

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