**Catalyst for Change**

Been thinking about what is necessary for change recently. In Mad Men, the protagonist Don Draper, is constantly moving forward, trying to desperately leave where he is currently. His life mantra has been to keep moving on, no matter the cost and it eventually catches up to him, causing a janga-like downfall of everything he’s built to that point. At church recently, we had a giant switch with PR stepping down and leaving GLMC after founding the church 13 years ago. New leaders, new head pastor, new congregation and moving forward. But what are the costs of doing such? I can’t shake this feeling that there is accruing debt for this. There are non-obvious costs that we are taking on without any knowledge of it whatsoever. Will these come back to haunt us in the future? Are we set on the same path with no modifications made from the past? Are we doomed to repeats the sins of our parents? On one hand, I’m glad we’re focused on moving on and moving forward past this transition stage. But I can’t stop thinking what lingering issues we are skipping for the sake of the church to keep existing.

The older I get, the more I realize you cannot skip steps for any sort of process. If you skip a step, it’ll stay unfinished and will come back in one form of another. You can’t skip steps. Old man clichés are clichés for a reason. More often than not, they’re correct. Sacrifice is necessary for any sort of change. You cannot replace an existing problem without removing it completely. But what about suffering? Is suffering just as necessary, if not more, for change to happen? Is suffering a necessary step for the weird alchemy of change to occur or is there a thing such as unnecessary suffering?

What’s most interesting is that suffering puts us in an uncomfortable situation, and from there that’s where magic happens. When we hear people tell stories of heroic efforts in unfortunate situations, we always end up thinking how we would we never be able to accomplish those acts ourselves. Our minds limit us even before we step one foot into that direction. But I bet the people who braved through such tragedies thought the exact same thing when they heard of others going through such events. My point is this, we seem to quit 1% into our journey toward something worthwhile. Everything that is worth doing in this life is hard and arduous. Maybe this is where suffering comes in, placing us in not-ideal situations and forcing us to overcome ‘heroic’ feats by sheer willpower. Suffering forces us into a corner and making us achieve things that we did not think were humanly possible.