

Musical Chairs / Obedience

Get in Your Seat

Everything happens twice: first in your mind, then in your reality.

Before you ever move physically, you usually move mentally. Before you quit, drift, compromise, or change direction, the thought normally starts somewhere inside.

Suggested Scripture:

Proverbs 23:7 — *As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.*

That is why this part of the journey matters so much.

GET IN YOUR SEAT.

Your seat represents your assignment, your discipline, your purpose, your place of growth, and the position God is developing you in.

But if we are not careful, life can start feeling like a game of musical chairs.

Every time the music changes, every time pressure rises, every time a new opportunity appears, every time comparison speaks, we start looking around and thinking:

“Maybe that chair is better than my seat.”

And if we keep moving every time we feel uncomfortable, we never remain long enough to build anything solid.

Priority Over Preference

Here is the mindset shift:

Priority over preference = stability

Or said another way:

Priority + Obedience + Consistency = Rooted Growth

When preference wins, you drift.

When priority wins, you remain.

Drifting means slowly moving away from where you are supposed to be, often without noticing it at first. It is not always one big decision. Sometimes it is small compromises, repeated distractions, emotional reactions, and unfinished commitments that pull you off course over time.

The Mindset Shift

This is the transition we all have to make:

Old Way of Thinking	New Way of Thinking
Comfort is greater than commitment.	Commitment is greater than comfort.
Opportunity is greater than obedience.	Obedience is greater than opportunity.
Feelings decide my direction.	Purpose decides my direction.
If it gets hard, I move seats.	If it gets hard, I get rooted.
I chase what looks better.	I steward what God placed in my hands.
I react to the music.	I remain in my assignment.
I move when I feel pressure.	I mature through pressure.

This is not just about staying busy.

This is about becoming stable.

Because sometimes the next level does not require a new seat.

Sometimes it requires a new mindset in the seat you already have.

Guard What You Feed Your Mind

Be intentional about what you hear.

Be intentional about what you watch.

Be intentional about what you allow into your spirit.

What enters your eyes and ears eventually affects your thoughts.

What affects your thoughts eventually affects your decisions.

What affects your decisions eventually affects your life.

Suggested Scripture:

Matthew 6:22-23 — the eye is the lamp of the body.

If your vision is clouded, your direction becomes clouded too. This is why we have to guard what we consume. The wrong music, the wrong voices, the wrong conversations, and the wrong environments can create movement in us that God never instructed.

And if we are not careful, we drift away.

I Can Admit It

I can admit that sometimes I have found myself playing musical chairs.

Every time a new seat opened up, I would look at it and think:

“That chair might be better than my seat.”

But man, do you know how much time I wasted moving from chair to chair?

How much energy I spent chasing what looked better?

How many times I confused movement with progress?

How often I thought being busy meant I was being productive?

The truth is, not every open seat is your assignment.

Some doors are distractions.
Some opportunities are tests.
Some movements are emotional reactions.
Some chairs only look good because you are tired of sitting in yours.

But even in that, I count it all joy because the process taught me something.

Suggested Scripture:

James 1:2-4 — trials produce patience, maturity, and completeness.

And I am reminded that God has a way of redeeming time, repositioning people, and using what looked delayed to develop something deeper.

Suggested Scripture:

Matthew 20:16 — the last shall be first, and the first last.

When Hustle Culture Was Not Enough

During this process, I learned something major:

Hustle culture is dead without purpose.

I remember holding down three jobs at once while preparing for my daughter to be born.

On the outside, it probably looked like I was grinding. It looked like ambition. It looked like responsibility. It looked like I was doing what I had to do.

But inside, I was lost.

I was broken.

I was unfulfilled.

I was tired.

And even with all the work I was putting in, I still felt like I was barely seeing progress.

That taught me something:

Working hard without alignment can still leave you empty.

Because more motion does not always mean more growth.

More income does not always mean more peace.

More hours does not always mean more purpose.

Sometimes we are not tired because we are lazy.

Sometimes we are tired because we are sitting in the wrong mindset while trying to force the right result.

The New Way of Thinking

But now, I am learning to stay in my seat.

And life has a funny flow when you stop running from the place God is developing you.

Now I can say I am fulfilled in a way I did not used to be.

My needs are met.

My perspective is different.

My peace is stronger.

My priorities are clearer.

I am not saying everything is perfect.

I am saying I am learning the value of remaining.

What Does It Look Like to Stay in Your Seat?

When I Move Seats	When I Stay in My Seat
I chase comfort.	I build discipline.
I react emotionally.	I respond intentionally.
I compare my journey.	I trust my process.
I confuse opportunity with assignment.	I test opportunity through obedience.
I start over repeatedly.	I develop roots.
I waste time recovering from wrong moves.	I gain time through consistency.
I look for escape.	I look for growth.
I follow the music.	I follow purpose.

When the Music Changes

The music will change.

Life will shift.

Pressure will rise.

Opportunities will appear.

People will act different.

Feelings will get loud.

Comparison will start talking.

Comfort will start calling.

But when the music changes, you have to know whether God told you to move, or whether discomfort made you panic.

Because when the music changes, it impacts everything.

Area Impacted	What Happens When the Music Changes
Mental state	You start overthinking, questioning, and second-guessing.
Thoughts and emotions	Fear, pressure, comparison, and frustration begin to rise.
Behavior and actions	You may react quickly, move too soon, quit, isolate, or chase something new.
Results	Your progress becomes inconsistent because your position keeps

Suggested Scripture:

Romans 12:2 — do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

That verse ties directly into this. The world teaches us to move when we are uncomfortable. God often teaches us to mature while we remain.

Embrace the Turbulence

Turbulence is uncomfortable, but turbulence does not always mean the plane is going down.

Sometimes turbulence simply means you are moving through invisible resistance.

You cannot always see what is shaking you.

You cannot always explain what is making you uncomfortable.

But you can feel it.

That is how life works too.

There are moments when God allows you to experience turbulence, not to destroy you, but to develop you. Not to take you out, but to take you higher.

So when the shaking starts, do not automatically assume you are in the wrong seat.

Sometimes you just need to buckle up.

GOTTA BUCKLE UP YOUR SEATBELT.

Suggested Scripture:

Ephesians 4:14 — we are not meant to be tossed back and forth by every wind, teaching, influence, or wave.

This scripture connects perfectly because it speaks to stability.

When you are immature in your thinking, everything can move you. Every feeling. Every opinion. Every opportunity. Every uncomfortable season.

But maturity teaches you how to remain steady.

Turbulence, Music, and Movement

Word	Meaning in This Message
Turbulence	Emotional disturbance, discomfort, resistance, or inner shaking.
Music	External influence trying to control your movement.
Seat	Your assignment, purpose, position, discipline, or place of development.
Drifting	Slowly moving away from purpose without realizing it.
Remaining	Choosing obedience, consistency, and growth even when it gets uncomfortable.

So what is the “music”?

The music can be:

- feelings
- pressure
- culture
- opportunity
- comparison
- fear
- frustration
- other people’s opinions
- old habits
- survival mode
- the desire to be comfortable

And the question becomes:

What music in my life right now is causing me to leave my seat?

Correction Is Not Rejection

There were moments in this journey where it truly felt like I was being corrected by God.

At first, I thought it was punishment.

I thought God was coming down on me for everything I had done wrong.

I thought the discomfort meant rejection.

But now I understand it differently.

Sometimes correction is love.

Sometimes conviction is direction.

Sometimes God allows discomfort because He is trying to mature what comfort kept delaying.

Suggested Scripture:

Hebrews 12:6 — God corrects those He loves.

Suggested Scripture:

Proverbs 3:11-12 — do not reject the Lord's discipline, because His correction comes from love.

That changes the way I see the moment.

The S.E.E. Moment

Sometimes life gives you what I call a **S.E.E. moment**:

S.E.E. = Series of Emotional Events

A S.E.E. moment is when multiple emotions, situations, conversations, and pressures start stacking up at once.

At first, it feels overwhelming.
It feels confusing.
It feels uncomfortable.
It feels like something is wrong.

But really, those moments can cause you to see differently.

They reveal what is in you.
They reveal what still moves you.
They reveal what still has power over your decisions.
They reveal whether you are rooted or just seated temporarily.

Old Way vs. New Way

Old Way

I get scared when I step into turbulence.
I feel resistance.
I get uncomfortable.
Then I move chairs.

New Way

I recognize turbulence as part of growth.
I pause before reacting.
I test the movement through prayer, wisdom, and purpose.
I remain seated unless God tells me to move.

Because when you think about it, a lot of times you do not leave the seat because God told you to.

You leave because something invisible made you uncomfortable.

That invisible thing may be fear.
It may be pressure.
It may be comparison.

It may be insecurity.
It may be impatience.
It may be old trauma.
It may be the need to feel in control.

But this is the season where we make the uncomfortable comfortable.

Alive or Comfortable?

Here is the real question:

Do you want to be alive, or do you want to be comfortable?

Because feelings do not always produce fruit.

Feelings can be real, but they are not always reliable.
Feelings can alert you, but they should not always lead you.
Feelings can reveal something, but they should not become your foundation.

Fruit tells the truth.

Suggested Scripture:

Matthew 7:16-20 — you will know them by their fruit.

Suggested Scripture:

Galatians 5:22-23 — the fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

So if the decision produces chaos, confusion, pride, isolation, and inconsistency, you have to examine it.

But if the decision produces discipline, peace, maturity, growth, humility, and fruit, then maybe that uncomfortable place is actually developing you.

You Can Only Fulfill Your Assignment in Your Seat

This is important:

You can only fulfill your assignment in your seat.

Not someone else's seat.

Not the seat that looks easier.

Not the seat that gets more attention.

Not the seat that feels better in the moment.

Your seat.

Your assignment requires your attention.

Your purpose requires your discipline.

Your growth requires your consistency.

If you keep moving every time the music changes, you may never discover what God was trying to build in you while you were seated.

Rosa Parks and the Power of Not Moving

Rosa Parks did not keep her seat simply because she was physically tired.

She was tired of giving in.

That is a powerful thinking point.

Because some of us are not just tired from life.

We are tired of giving in.

Tired of folding.

Tired of shrinking.

Tired of moving every time pressure shows up.

Tired of letting fear choose for us.
Tired of letting old patterns have the final say.

So the question becomes:

What have we been tolerating that we were actually called to confront?

When Life Starts Feeling Funny

Now this is where life gets tricky.

Because once you decide to stay seated, everything starts feeling different.

Unrecognizable feelings start rising from the bottom to the top.

Old emotions start showing up.

Fear starts speaking louder.

Discomfort starts making noise.

Your body may want to run before your spirit gets the chance to grow.

And all you want to do is escape it.

Man, I am just like you for real.

But maybe this time, we do not run.

Maybe this time, we sit with it.

Maybe this time, we pray through it.

Maybe this time, we grow through it.

Maybe this time, we stop letting the music decide when we move.

Reflection Questions

Take a moment and ask yourself:

- 1. What “music” in my life is causing me to leave my seat?**

2. Am I moving because God told me to, or because I feel uncomfortable?
3. Where have I confused opportunity with obedience?
4. What have I been tolerating that I need to confront?
5. What old mindset keeps trying to pull me out of my assignment?
6. What fruit is my current decision producing?
7. Where do I need to remain long enough to mature?

Note to Self

God is not looking for perfection.

He is looking for consistency.

The goal is not to have it all figured out.

The goal is to stay faithful to the seat He assigned you.

So when the music changes, do not panic.

When turbulence comes, do not run.

When discomfort rises, do not assume you are in the wrong place.

Buckle up.

Renew your mind.

Guard what you consume.

Stay rooted.

Stay intentional.

Stay in your seat.

Because the assignment can only be fulfilled from there.

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#AllICanBeIsMe

