

"Every ending is a new beginning"

Thomas Stearns Eliot OM, poet, essayist, publisher and playwright once wisely stated, "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." Everyday, people face many "endings". We end days, weeks, months and even years and we have no worries because we believe that there is a new day, week, month and year that is waiting for us. The Late and great Sir John Templeton was a pioneer in both financial investments and philanthropy who spent his entire life-time encouraging open mindedness. In his famous book, *Discovering the Laws of Life*, he describes that endings are inevitable. However, endings do not necessarily mean conclusion but the beginning of something new. Every ending is a new beginning because it allows new opportunities, relationships and growth.

Hurricane Dorian was a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane with powerful winds, rain and surges of sea water that totally devastated the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama on September 1st, 2019. Although it was a strong storm, the courage, hope and faith of the Bahamian people were stronger. When the storm departed and the golden rays of sunshine broke through the horizon, illuminating the tranquil sea, the victims that had miraculously survived stood overlooking lifeless bodies and destruction left behind. Although they had lost almost everything, they still felt that they were blessed with the gift of life for which they were undoubtedly grateful. God had spared their lives and allowed them to witness a new day. Prior to the storm, I became friends with a teenage girl from Abaco via social media. Hurricane Dorian forced her and her family to relocate to Nassau as their home was severely damaged. This

unexpected move opened the door to new and improved jobs, schools, housing and even relationships. For them it was an ending for an even greater beginning.

Every ending that I have experienced in my life was because God had an even greater blessing in store for me. If my life had never been filled with endings and changes, I would not be the person that I am, in the position that I am currently in. During the course of my life, many things have ended, including relationships and friendships. Although these endings were excruciatingly painful, they were necessary to receive gifts from God. As I transitioned from primary school to high school, I lost my childhood best friend. She didn't die, fortunately, but my connection to her was lost the day that we parted ways. I still think of her, and hope that she thinks of me, as well. The end of our friendship was not entirely negative because it taught me several things about life, myself, and building relationships with people. I learned that life gives and it takes, that I'm stronger than I thought and that people come and go. I did not lose her because I stopped caring about her, rather she was not meant to join me in future endeavours.

Sir John Templeton explained it best in his famous book, *Discovering the Laws of Life*, that change is necessary in order to experience growth using the analogy of a butterfly. The butterfly has one of the most fascinating life cycles of all creatures. Imagine the grand metamorphosis of the butterfly. The stages of this experience can be related to the various aspects of our lives: first the tiny egg of potential, then the tireless caterpillar working toward that potential, then the chrysalis allowing that potential to take shape, and finally the butterfly who realizes that potential and takes flight. A noteworthy Bahamian butterfly is The Late Myles Munroe who started as an impoverished youth living in the suburb of Bain Town in Nassau, Bahamas. Munroe said at the mere age of thirteen, he discovered his true self. After being

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insulted by his teacher who called him several names such as 'black monkey', he was disturbed and couldn't sleep until his mother showed him a Bible passage which he believed opened up a new page of his life. Dr. Myles Munroe experienced an admirable transformation, becoming a highly adored pastor, preacher, teacher, best-selling author and motivational speaker who traveled around the world. The butterfly teaches us that it is not possible to go from egg to butterfly without the stages in between. And in our lives we cannot go from birth to death without the journey.

Conclusively, every ending is a new beginning because it allows new opportunities, relationships and growth. Old relationships have to be dissolved to create stronger, more beneficial bonds. Endings are the beginning of growth. In order for us to spread our wings and become beautiful just like the butterfly, different stages of our lives must end to experience the final product that God has designed us to become. It is known that every story has an ending, but life does not. Even after life on Earth has come to an end, through our faith in Christ, we are promised the gift of eternal life with Him in heaven.

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