

LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

Part 10 – Sometimes God Delays by Design Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14

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I. SOMETIMES GOD DELAYS TO ACCOMPLISH A SPECIFIC **PURPOSE** IN OUR LIFE (Exodus 14:1-4)

A. *Exodus 14:1-4 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. ³ "For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' ⁴ "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." And they did so.*

B. God led His people out of their greatest victory directly into a wilderness of **delay**.

Exodus 13:17 "When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

C. Though His people were in a wilderness, God was **with them**.

D. The Lord reminds His people that He is in **control**.

E. God allows any opportunity for rescue to seem **impossible**.

F. *Exodus 14:4 "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."*

G. How does God develop faith in our lives?

1. He raises up a **need** within us.

2. He allows all other avenues of meeting that need righteously to be **eliminated**.

3. Then God moves with power into our situation and meets the need as a response to our **trust**.

II. WHEN WE FACE A CRISIS AND DELAY THERE IS A **WRONG WAY** TO RESPOND TO IT. (Exodus 14:10)

A. *Exodus 14:10 "And as Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord."*

B. They took their eyes off of **God**.

C. They were overwhelmed with **fear**.

D. They uttered an **emotional prayer** that had no faith. (Exodus 14:10)

Exodus 14:10 "As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD."

E. God never leads us anywhere that He does not require faith. He never requires faith where it is not **tested**.

IV. WHEN WE FACE A CRISIS THERE IS A **RIGHT WAY** TO RESPOND. (Exodus 14:13)

A. *Exodus 14:13 "Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again."*

B. Don't Be **Afraid**.

1. How can God tell us to not be afraid in the face of some impending disaster?

a. First, God knows that fear is a **trap**.

b. Second, God knows that fear is a **self-fulfilling** prophesy.

Job 3:25 "For what I fear comes upon me, And what I dread befalls me.

Job 3:25 "Everything I fear and dread comes true." (Paraphrase)

c. Third, God knows that fear isn't **necessary**.

1. *Isaiah 41:10-13 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ¹¹ All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. ¹² Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. ¹³ For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." (NIV)*

2. "You can travel first class or second class to heaven; it's your choice. Second class is, When I am Afraid, I will trust in You (Psalm 56:3). First class is, In God I trust, I will not be afraid (Psalm 56:11)." (Dwight L. Moody)

C. Stand **Firm**.

Exodus 14:13 "Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm..."

D. **See** the deliverance of the Lord.

*Exodus 14:13 "Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will **see** the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again."*

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Notes:
