

# **Breakthrough Moment: God Leads His People Out**

## **Exodus 14 - Pastor Guy Gray**

### **Setting the Stage for a Major Breakthrough**

Exodus 14 is the ultimate breakthrough story in the Old Testament. This is where the freedom of God's people is going to become a reality. We should read this chapter as an Old Testament picture of the breakthrough that God works in our lives through Jesus Christ. And as we do, we see that the stage is carefully being set so that this experience will have maximum impact. The context is given in Exodus 13:17-22. The Lord is leading His people out of Egypt. But He is choosing an unexpected route. He is choosing the longer route. He knows that if they go to the North they will encounter opposition and battle that they are not ready for. But ironically, He leads them into a situation in which they will have to face a circumstance far more frightening than they could imagine. God knows what we need for our faith to grow. He knows what they need to face. He sets the stage by having them avoid the more conventional – "normal" type of battles and instead He sends them into the most intense and desperate situation imaginable.

### **Does God Set Us Up for a Crisis of Faith?**

It appears that God is actually setting them up for an incredible "crisis of faith." In the end, there is going to be no depending on their own strength, wisdom or resourcefulness. They are literally caught in a bind in which only a miracle will allow them to move forward. We see this sort of thing in the New Testament as well. The disciples were often put into situations by Christ in which the miraculous work of Christ was the only solution.

### **Facing Our Fears and Living Our Faith**

The heart of the crisis comes in Exodus 14:10-15. At first the people do not respond so well. They are ready to give up and go back to Egypt as slaves. Moses' response to them is not so much a word of comfort as a word of challenge. He commands them to not be afraid. He tells them to stand firm. He tells them to "be still." But most translations express this as "keep quiet," "hold your peace," and one translator even used the phrase "shut up!" That sounds sort of harsh! Maybe the better way to put it is – "good grief, get a grip." It is the critical moment when in the midst of our fear we must make the conscious choice to get a grip of our faith in God and hold on tight. And remember, God led them to this moment. It is a life defining moment. In this critical moment, stepping forward in faith, they move into the salvation and the plan of God.

### **Why We Live in Hope**

The miracle at the Red Sea becomes a biblical focal point for a life of faith that always lives in hope. Simply put - because God did this great miracle, you should absolutely trust him for the future. This is the message of Isaiah 43:16-19, where God's people are told to look back to the miracle of redemption at the Sea so that they might look forward in faith to God's work in their immediate future. In this way, Exodus 14 is the perfect model for our life of faith in Christ. As believers we are to look back to the miracle of Easter and recognize the absolute victory of God in the Resurrection of Jesus. As we do we are ever called to get a grip on our faith, no matter what the circumstances of life and move forward in faith.

### **Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion**

Sometimes God's leading in our lives is unexpected. It may even seem weird or illogical to us, but God has His reason's. Can you think of a time in your life when you didn't understand God's leading until later? What was that like?

Throughout scripture, God's people find themselves in situations where faith is absolutely required. Why do you think God operates this way? What kind of crisis of faith do you find yourself in today or have you been through recently? How did you respond?

Read Matthew 14: 14-21. What do you think the disciples learned?

See 1 Peter 1:3. What observations can you make about our hope from this verse? Do you live in this hope? Why or why not?

## **Upcoming:**

### **FRIDAY 12/8**

Family Christmas Craft Night benefiting  
the HOTEL Ministry, 6:30pm  
at River West Lake Grove

### **FRIDAY 12/15**

Mom's Day Out, 10am-2pm  
at Lake Grove. See Monthly Update  
for more info. Space Limited!  
RSVP with Lindsie

### **SUNDAY 12/17**

All Church Service, 10am  
at Lakeridge Performing Arts Center

### **WEDNESDAY 12/20**

Parent Date Night, 6:30pm  
at River West Green Tree. Space  
Limited! RSVP with Lindsie

### **SATURDAY 12/23**

No Christmas Eve Service

### **SUNDAY 12/24**

No morning services  
Christmas Eve Service, 5:30, 7, 8:30 and  
10pm at Lake Grove. Childcare  
provided for 5:30, 7 & 8:30pm

### **WEEK of 12/25- 1/1**

River West Office Closed