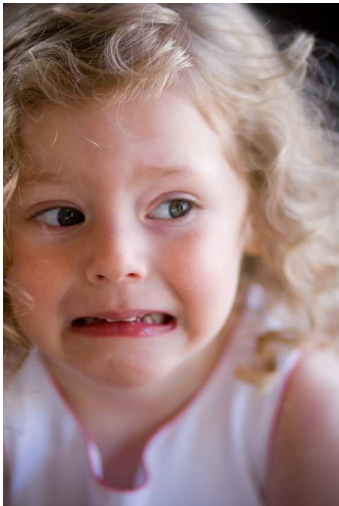


## Do Not Be Afraid!



**Exodus 14:13-14** – "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. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

What do you do when there is nothing you can do? Where do you go when there is no place you can go? On whom do you depend when there is no one on earth on whom you can depend? When Dr. David Livingstone was working in Africa, a group of friends wrote him: "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" According to a member of his family, Dr. Livingstone sent this message in reply: "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

God's battle plan rarely prepares a way so that we can see our way clear to obey his call. God's plan requires moving out on faith. It is not that God is trying to hold us in suspense. If God revealed his plans beforehand they would be hard for us to accept. God is fighting a war and he doesn't want our enemies to know what is going to transpire. God's plans are designed to glorify his cause so the world may believe in him and be brought to salvation.

That is exactly what he wanted the Children of Israel to do. When Moses led them out of slavery God didn't want them to go out of Egypt by way of Philistine country, because God knew the Israelites weren't ready for battle with the Philistines. If he made them face the Philistines they would have been back in Egypt before nightfall. Sure God could have struck the Philistines dead. But God had a greater purpose in mind. He wanted to bring them to a place where they could learn some important lessons as they faced their greatest fears.

As I look at this story I realize that my lack of spiritual maturity may limit what God can and will do for me when I encounter personal problems. He will not lead me into a situation that is over my head, but he will lead me into situations that will prepare me for deeper waters. God couldn't lead the Israelites through the land of the Philistines because of their spiritual weakness. There is a very fine line between what God is willing to do for us and what he expects us to do.

Most of our lives are spent between the banks of the Red Sea and the onslaughts of Satan. Without God we have no chance of escape and despite our weakness God devises a plan that will work for each us. His plan will reveal how great He is!

We must look for God's deliverance. 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. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

God promises us that he will solve the problem.

There are requirements we must meet to discover God's perspectives for our lives. To discover God's perspectives we must do four things.

- **We must not be afraid.** Moses says, "*Do not be afraid.*" Fear is usually something that comes without an invitation. However we can reject it.

- **We must stand firm.** Moses says, "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring." We can choose to stand firm despite our fears.
- **We must be still.** Moses says, "Be still." I can just imagine the Israelites running to one another in desperation as they tried to figure a way out. Moses says, "Be still." That is probably equivalent to saying you must stop and focus yourselves. They desired to run from their fears. Moses says, "Don't be afraid--stand firm--be still and focus on God's deliverance."
- Finally, **We must move on with our lives.** "Then the LORD said to Moses, '**Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.**'" (**Exodus 14:15-16**)

I read over these verses in preparation for this lesson and saw something I had never seen. It made me laugh, but I didn't laugh because the Hebrew's situation was a laughing matter. I laughed because I saw myself. The Lord tells Moses the equivalent of "Stop whining and complaining to me and move on". We whine and complain because we are trying to figure out why we are the way we are. It makes little difference why you are. You need to move on with your life.

The answer to our problems today is to follow Jesus. When we follow Jesus we accept God's solution to our problems. When we follow Jesus we develop God's perspective on our problems.

God is willing to provide the necessary essentials to enable us to find solutions to our problems. Heaven desires to intercede on your behalf.

God's protection is provided. Are we willing to follow? We must not whine and cry over our problems. We must move on into the center of God's will through obedience to Christ's commands. It is there that we develop God's perspective for our lives.