Have Faith in God

My earnest prayer is that you <u>will hear what the Spirit is personally saying to you today</u> and that you will be encouraged and strengthened in your faith by what He says and by what He promises to do.

Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." This means hearing the Word of Christ; Hearing the gospel first delivered by Christ and propagated by His ministers. Upon hearing the Word of God with the heart and receiving it faith comes.

"FAITH COMES." It comes from God. It is a bit of heaven on earth to the heart that hears the Word of God; to the heart that will listen; to the heart that is repentant; humble and willing to receive what God wants to give. That is: Forgiveness, Eternal and Abundant Life with Him.

Faith has a divine descent and it is a divine deposit from heaven inside of you. Faith has been given to you who believe in Jesus Christ.

The Amplified Bible defines this faith as the leaning of your entire human personality on Him (Jesus Christ) in absolute trust and confidence in His Power, Wisdom, and Goodness.

This Faith that is deposited in our hearts will carry us from beginning to end in this life. This faith will sustain us. This faith in Christ will open the door to what we think is impossible. This faith of God is the anchor of our souls during the storms of life.

Mark 11:22 "Have Faith in God" constantly or literally, "Have the Faith of God".

This Faith He has given to you let it constantly be at work in you. Release it in all situations, and seasons of life; in all circumstances and at all times.

Exodus 14 Provides biblical truths to help us during trying and turbulent times of life... the times when our faith is being tested. Exodus 14 will help us see our circumstances through the "eyes of faith."

In the book of Exodus when Pharaoh finally let God's people go, God did not lead them out of Egypt along the "main road" that was the shortest route to the Promise Land. He led them in a roundabout way; an unexpected way; a longer

rocky way. It actually appears to be in the opposite direction of their intended goal. Only faith would have caused Moses to obey this direction because it made no sense to the natural mind, but none the less God was responsible for leading His people where He wanted them to go.

Exodus 14:1-2 Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses: "Tell the people to go back and march toward Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. "Camp there" along the shore...

They were already on the borders of the desert, and another's day journey would have placed them beyond the reach of the Egyptians, but instead of pursuing their journey eastward, they were suddenly commanded to turn to the south, a route which detained them and kept them in Egypt. This actually causes them to temporarily turn their backs on the land which they had set up to obtain. This was a turn much unexpected, and the "divine design" in this direction was of God and the purpose was known by God but concealed to them.

It was by faith they had to obey.

The Israelites were following the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night as carefully as possible, yet as they followed God, "God deliberately led" them to the edge of the Red Sea. In the natural it was too deep to be crossed! In the natural it was impossible!

Instead of going forward, they are ordered to turn off, and to march towards the Red Sea.

This was a Divine Set Up! He was directing them in His Wisdom along a path He decided was best for them!

In Exodus 14:1-2 the Lord Took Responsibility for Leading them. He gave them specific, step-by-step instructions, leading them down a route to what appeared to the natural man an impossible situation. (Impossible for man but not for God!)

Turn and camp! Camp there! Right there! Camp before the sea which is too deep to cross! Yes, right there in that seemingly impossible place. God had purposed for them to trust Him; and had a plan for their crossing over; and a plan for His Glory!

Point 1: Faith trust and accepts that God has placed you where you are for His divine purposes which are known to Him and may be concealed to you at the present time. Yes, "Camp there!"

God may have you "camping out" where you would rather not be. Difficulty is not all bad through the "eyes of faith". But difficulty does require faith.

Difficult situations are not always the devil!

Before them was the Red Sea and behind them the Egyptian enemies; they thought they were doomed. There was no natural way out but absolute faith in God!

Our whole perspective of difficulties changes when finding ourselves in a trying place or difficult spot, we realize the Lord knows right where we are, and has put us in this place or has at least permitted us to be here to use our faith and to trust in Him for His Purposes to be fulfilled.

Psalm 139:3 You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest.

Psalm 37:23 The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord and He delights in every detail of their lives

Andrew Murray who was faced with great difficulty sat in his study; he sat a long while quietly, prayerfully, and thoughtfully, picking up his pen he wrote this in his journal.

First, He brought me here; it is by His will that I am in this place; in that fact I will rest.

Next, He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace to behave as His child.

Then, He will make the difficulty a blessing; ... working in me the grace He means to bestow.

Last, in His good time He can bring me out again - How and when He knows.

Exodus 14:3-4 Then Pharaoh will think, "Those Israelites are confused. They are trapped between the wilderness and the sea!" and once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned

this so I will Receive Great Glory at the expense of Pharaoh and his armies. After this the Egyptians will know that "I am the LORD!"

➤ Point #2: Faith believes God has a plan for His glory in your situation.

Faith believes to see the Glory of God. Faith wants God to get the Glory.

Faith desires above all for God to be glorified!

<u>God deliberately orchestrated the events so He would be glorified!</u> He orchestrated the situation to demonstrate His Glory!

Psalm 72: 18, 19 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders. And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Faith believes and asks for God to be glorified in all things and above all things.

1 Peter 4:11... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Faith Prays: Psalm 143: 11 For the Glory of your Name, O Lord, save me, in your righteousness; bring me out of this distress.

Every trial and trouble is not an end in itself. It is a platform for God to demonstrate His Glory. His Glory is what He does and who He is! He desires to manifest His Glory and get the Glory. (Isaiah 48:11, John 14:21)

John 11: 40 Jesus said to Martha, "Did I not tell you and promise you that if you would believe and rely on Me, you would see the glory of God?" Lazarus was brought back to life!

Sometimes we get discouraged with difficulty and don't understand it. But one thing we do understand is that God wants to get the glory in our lives and in all things be glorified. Therefore, pray and expect God to be gloried in your life! (Isaiah 43:7)

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Numbers 14:21 ... As I live, all the earth shall be filled with the Glory of the Lord.

> Exodus 14:5-9 When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. "What have we

done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?" they asked. So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops.

➤ Point#3: The enemy may try to chase you down (sickness, doubt, depression) but know God has already ultimately planned for the destruction of Satan in your life and has equipped you to overcome the work of the enemy (Colossians 2:15; Isaiah 54:17)

Acknowledge the enemy; Focus your eyes on Jesus; use the shield of faith! You have the victory through God! There was a Pharaoh but God had already planned on his destruction. The same is true with Satan. God has already planned for your victory over the work of the enemy through Christ death on the cross and by Christ living in you! You don't have to be defeated!

Ephesians 6:13-18 Put on the Full Armor of God

Vs 16 "... in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

- Exodus 14:10 When pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians ... "Then they cried out to the Lord"
- ➤ Point#4: Cry out to the Lord in Prayer...

Psalm 145: 18-19 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him; To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them who fear Him. He also will hear their cry and save them!

Faith knows who to cry out to! He is our hope and our help... we can expect it!

Psalm 34:17 The righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their distress and trouble. (One way or another!)

Our problems bring us to a realization of how much we need to depend on Him. And much we can trust in Him. That is good! Cry out in faith and expectancy; knowing that He is waiting to hear and ready to answer.

Psalm 55:17 Morning, noon and night I cry out ... and the Lord hears my voice.

- Exodus 14: 13 But Moses told the people "Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which he will work for you today.
- Point #5: Fear Not! Faith will not give into fear in troublesome circumstances! Do not entertain yourself with fearful thoughts; for that is the devil's delight! Faith in God will always see the salvation of the Lord.

Moses had faith in God's delivering power. When it looked as if they were trapped, Moses called upon God in faith to intervene.

Faith believes in God's goodness. Faith expects God's best.

Fear is faith in the devil. It causes us to have little faith in God and gives the devil access into the situation. Fear is a tool of the devil to paralyze God's people from receiving great things from God and from doing what God is asking.

Isaiah 43: 1 <u>"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine..."</u>

Isaiah 41:10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Psalm 46: 1-3 God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present and well proved help in trouble, therefore we will not fear though the earth should change and the though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas....

- Exodus 14: 15 the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."
- ➤ Point #6 Faiths takes action and moves forward. There is a time to petition and a time to take action. We are to be emboldened by faith to do what it takes while trusting God. Faith propels; Fear paralyzes.

Faith does what the situation demands. We walk by faith. Faith prays; Faith waits on God to hear from the Spirit and does what can be done in the natural.

On the shores of the Red Sea the Lord gave them a simple plan. "Tell the children of Israel to go forward!" "Let them go as far as they can upon dry ground, and then God will divide the sea, and open a passage for them through it."

One commentator Mackintosh writes "God never gives guidance for two steps at a time. I must take one step, and then I get light for the next. This keeps the heart in abiding dependence upon God."

- Exodus 14:19-20 then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to a position behind them, and the pillar of cloud also moved around behind them. The cloud settled between the Israelites and Egyptian camps.
- ➤ Point #7 Remember that God's Presence is always with you. Don't ever forget this! God has always promised to be with His people and with those who were called to accomplish impossible assignments.

God's covenant promise, "I will be with you" has always been linked to man's need for courage to face the impossible.

Matthew 28:19-21 ... In the great commission... "I will be with you always"

He both precedes us and protects us. He is our Shepherd and Shield. He is Alpha and Omega, The One who goes before, guiding into the future, and the One who goes behind, keeping us secure.

Hebrews 13:6 I will never leave you nor forsake you...

Psalm 139:5-6 You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

The practice of frequently reminding ourselves of the Lord's abiding presence brings peace of mind and heart to us; especially in difficult times.

- Exodus 14:21-22 Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. ... So the people of Israel walked through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!
- Point #8 Faith believes God to make a way in your seeming impossible situation.

Do your part! Moses raised His Hand over the sea. That was possible for Moses to do and God did the impossible.

He will not leave you stranded in an impossible situation. He is the miracle maker and also a God who works through the ordinary!

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible...

Luke 18:27 And He said, the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Trust that God will make a way where there seems to be no natural way. Expect God to be God! Believe Him to do the unbelievable according to His Grace, according to His Way, and His Plan.

Exodus 14:30-31 that is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore. When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians they put their faith in the Lord. They believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

They saw what God had done and it encouraged them to continue to believe God.

➤ Point #9 Realize your present situation is a "faith builder" for the future.

Faith keeps its eyes open and remembers what the Lord has done. Exodus says," When the people of Israel saw..."

As we look and sees God's hand in our situation we are not to forget; recognize how He has provided; be thankful for what He has done and count the blessings. We are to go from glory to glory in God and in our faith. We are to advance ...go forward... grow... and encourage ourselves in God by seeing and remembering what God has done in the past.

- Chapter 15.... A song of praise.... Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord, saying, I will sing to the Lord, "The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.
- Point #10 God is deserving of our songs of praise and thanksgiving!

 Praise helps us release our faith and keep it alive! Praise honors God;

 edifies us and defeats the devil! Praise Him not only in the good times

 but praise Him at all times!

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice....

Psalm 105:1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness....

Women of Faith

- 1) Believe God has placed you where you are or is permitting you to be there are for his divine kingdom purposes.
- 2) Look for and desire the glory of God in all of life.
- 3) Acknowledge the devil but know that God has planned his defeat and equipped us for victory!
- 4) Cry out to the Lord in humble and earnest expectation believing God hears and will intervene.
- 5) Do not fear; close the door to the devil; exercise faith in God.

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- 6) Move forward confidently; trusting God one step at a time.
- 7) Remember God's presence is always with you to accomplish what is required.
- 8) Trust God to make a way even when it seems impossible.
- 9) Know that the present circumstance is a faith builder for the future.
- 10) Know how to Praise God and delight in doing it!