

INTRODUCTION: EXODUS 16

- Today we begin a message series in the Book of Exodus on The Walk Of Faith
- [SLIDE 1] To give you an idea of where we are in our Journey Of Grace
- We began in Egypt where man is born in separation from God, born under judgment
- Man cries out to God and God delivers man from Separation and man is born again... SAVED
- THEN man is Baptized, represented by RED SEA, which is an outward sign of an inward reality which represents man entering into the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus
- And now, as man emerges out of the waters of Baptism...man enters into a new dimension of life referred to as the Walk of Faith

I will be looking at Exodus 16 today

- Some of this may sound like review if you joined us for our midweek study
- But I believe there are some things worth repeating
- As Peter said...I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them

Speaking of our midweek study...

- I encourage you to join us on Thursday as we go verse by verse from Genesis to Revelation
- In fact, we have people coming from different churches and the blessing is they are being equipped through God's Word to be more effective in serving at their home churches
- I've received so many questions about the times we are in, specifically related to the Corona Virus and those who are asking...
- Is this the end of the world?
- My response is... well, if you came to our midweek study you would know the answer to that question because we've been through the scriptures once and we're going through them for the second time
- You would also be equipped with eyes of faith because
- Faith comes by hearing God's Word
- So I see our midweek study as a service to the Body of Christ and would encourage you to listen in and be blessed by God's Word

Let's read our text

Exodus 16:1 (NKJV)

16 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

To give a little bit of review

- God is leading the congregation of the children of Israel into the wilderness
- There are 2 things to point out
- First, the children of Israel are referred to as the congregation
- The word congregation is better translated “witness” or “testimony”
- The children of Israel are witnesses of God’s saving power
- They are also a testimony to the world
- They are a testimony of God’s power to save, to deliver, to rescue from the bondage to evil and wickedness

Second, the children of Israel are being led into the wilderness

- The wilderness is a place where there is nothing... no food, no water, no people, no enemy, nothing
- Not only is there no food or water... there is no ability to make food and water appear through any effort of man
- You can’t make something out of nothing... unless You’re God
- This is the place God leads them to in order to teach them how to walk by faith and not by sight

The world looks at faith as a blind leap into the dark unknown

- You really don’t what to expect, you don’t know what the outcome will be, but you take a blind leap and hopefully it will work out
- It’s more like divine gambling... I’m playing the odds and I’m hoping I’ve picked the winning number
- But the Bible doesn’t teach a blind leap of faith
- In fact the Bible doesn’t teach that faith is taking a chance or even a risk
- I’ve heard people say that faith is spelled R-I-S-K
- The Bible teaches that faith is reasonable
- Isaiah said “come let us reason together (Isaiah 1:18)
- Faith makes sense given the facts about God

So let's begin with the Biblical definition of FAITH in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:1–3 (NKJV)

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Two key words in understanding faith

- Substance and Evidence
- The word “substance” is the Gr. word “hupostasis”
- It’s a compound word... “hupo” meaning “under or beneath” and “stasis” meaning “to stand, to abide, to covenant, to establish”
- The idea is faith is that which supports one’s ability to stand and thus the word “substance” is often translated “assurance, confidence”

BUT “Hupostasis” is also a legal term

- It is also translated “title deed” which is a legal document to effect a transfer of property and to show the legal right to possess it
- When you purchase a house, you have a title deed and if your name is on the title deed then you are the legal owner of the house

Q: What legal document is the writer of Hebrews referring to?

- He’s referring to Genesis 15
- In Genesis 15 we read the word of the LORD came to Abram and as discovered in our studies, this is a pre-birth appearance of Jesus
- Jesus tells Abraham Ishmael is not your heir, someone who will come from your own body will be your heir
- Then Jesus showed Abraham the stars and said your descendants will be countless like the stars
- Vs. 6 says... Abraham believed in the LORD and He accounted it to him for righteousness and the LORD makes a Covenant with Abraham and promises to give him the land
- In Genesis 17, God establishes circumcision as a sign of the Covenant
- By getting circumcised, every household is accepting the terms of the Covenant and God says I will be their God
- Thus the Substance, the legal document that entitles us to all the rights and privileges in God’s Word are the Covenants of God
- The last Covenant being the New Covenant that all who believe in Jesus are entitled to all the rights and privileges given to children of God

How do you become a child of God?

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Now Moses knew this

- He saw how God saved the nation of Israel
- He knew God didn't bring them into the wilderness to die
- He knew God was taking them to a land of abundance
- Even though the land had no food or water, Moses knew God would supernaturally provide for His people
- Why? Because God is faithful to His Word!
- But the people didn't believe the faithfulness of God, so they complained

Now, if I were God... I probably would have found another people

- I would have said, okay...if you don't believe me...I'll find people who do
- You don't appreciate what I've done for you, there are others who will
- But God isn't like that...
- Instead of dumping them, God shows them His glory

Exodus 16:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD"

- Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel
- In the evening you will know the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD
- Now... here are people who are complaining
- Here are people who do not have a correct view of God
- You could even say... they did not believe God's Word to them and YET God doesn't judge them or punish them
- God reveals Himself to them

- I think of Thomas, who doubted God and yet doesn't judge or punish Thomas for his unbelief... instead He reveals Himself... Thomas, see the holes in my hands and feet and believe
- Why would God do that? Because He made a Covenant, a legal agreement that entitled them to all the rights and privileges as children of Israel (governed by God)
- Thus, all the things God promised to do, that we desire to see, we know He will do them because He is faithful to keep His Word

The second word used to describe faith is evidence

- In the Greek it's "elenchos" and it is also a legal term that means "irrefutable proof"
- When you are trying a criminal you need irrefutable proof of the crimes committed in order to convict them of the crime

Q: What is the evidence? What is the proof?

- The congregation of the children of Israel are the evidence
- They were witnesses of the power of God
- They've watched God reveal Himself to Pharaoh through 3 sets of 3 plagues (3 being the number of the complete revelation of God)
- Thus God, when He judges Pharaoh personally in the 10th plague, is completely justified because Pharaoh knows who God is and therefore is without excuse when judgment comes
- They witnessed God delivering them through the Red Sea
- They witnessed God turning the poisonous waters of Marah sweet
- For 30 days, since they left Egypt, they have been under God's direct care and leadership...
- They are witnesses of the cloud by day and the fire by night
- And yet they still complained... there is no food, no water in the wilderness and we're going to die

So what does God do?

Exodus 16:9–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.' "

- God gives them more proof, more irrefutable evidence that He is the LORD, the Covenant keeping God
- He shows them His glory and then He sends quail (meat) in the evening and bread from heaven in the morning
- Then in Exodus 17, God gives them water...
- KEEP IN MIND... THEY ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF NO WHERE, NO FOOD, NO WATER, THIS IS SUPERNATURAL PROVISION

Now did Moses know God would provide in the wilderness?

- What was the evidence, the proof that God would supernaturally provide?
- It was the people themselves... they were the testimony of God's power
- Whenever I start to worry about how I'm going to get through certain seasons of life... I stop and I remember everything God has done to bring me to where I am today
- Because God's past faithfulness is proof that He can be trusted today
- I am a testimony of God's love and so are you
- There has never been a day of your life when you weren't loved by God
- The Bible says even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, God made us alive with Christ by grace
- Thus my faith is based on God's supernatural provision of grace in my life and because I've experienced His love, I am a testimony of His saving power and He didn't bring me this far to die

The walk of faith is based on 2 things...

- Faith is the substance of things hoped for... the substance being the Covenant God made with you and I who believe
- It's the evidence of things not seen... the substance being the proof of God's power which is you and I who have experienced His salvation
- It's not a blind, leap of faith
- It's a rational, reasonable decision based on God's real manifest presence in our lives... which is His grace
- Even though I don't see it... God is always leading me to supernatural provision because He does not go back on His Word to be my God
- So like Paul I can say... I know in whom I have believed in and I'm persuaded that He is able to keep me