

THE WAY FORWARD



A SERMON FROM EXODUS 14:15

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward!"

By Gene Keith

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The Lord woke me up out of a sound sleep at 2:30 Saturday Morning and gave me this message. It had to be the Lord because nobody else but God could get me out of bed at 2:30 in the morning as tired as I was. So, I got out of bed, made some notes so I would not forget the thoughts the Lord had given me for this message. I have preached on this text before but I've not preached this message before.

EXODUS 14:15

This message is based on Exodus 14:15. "And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward!"

BACKGROUND

The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for more than four hundred years. God had sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to the Promised Land. They had observed the Passover and had left Egypt. Everything seemed to be going well until they found themselves trapped "between the Devil and the deep blue sea."

Pharaoh had realized what had happened and had called out his special forces with 600 of his best chariots. The Egyptians caught up with the children of Israel on a beach at the edge of the Red Sea.

The children of Israel were terrified!

Pharaoh's army was behind them and the Red Sea was before them.

At this point, the people began to turn against Moses and accuse him of leading them out in the desert to die (Ex. 14:11-12). "Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness."

Moses told the people to just watch what God was going to do. God had everything under control (Exodus 14:13-14). 13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

This is where our text comes in: (Exodus 14:15) "Why are you crying out to me. Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward."

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT "THE WAY FORWARD"

1. The Way Forward was a way of Necessity.

Moses and the children of Israel had to do something. Doing nothing was not an option. If they didn't move forward Pharaoh and his army would either kill them or take them back to Egypt as slaves again.

2. The Way Forward was a way of faith.

God told Moses to tell the people to go forward and they looked at the Red Sea and thought, "How are we going forward?" They knew they could not walk on water. They had no idea how they could go forward. The only way was to exercise faith and trust God.

The Bible says that we can't please God unless we have faith in God and His Word.

(Hebrews 11:6).

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

3. The Way Forward is a way of Miracles.



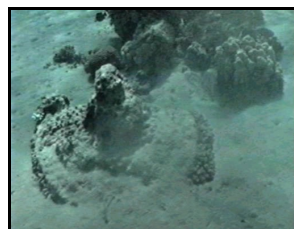
Moses didn't know what to do but he trusted God and obeyed Him. God told him to point his rod towards the Red Sea. When he did, a wind began to blow and the

children of Israel crossed over on dry land.

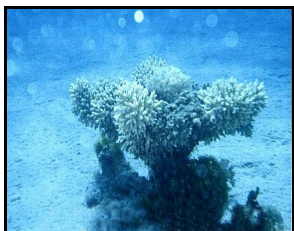
When they had finished crossing, they looked back and the Egyptian army was following them. Moses pointed his rod back toward the sea and the waters returned and drowned every one of the pursuing Egyptians. Read this story. It is history confirmed by Archeology.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY

www.throneofgod.com/RedSea/redsea.html



"After years of study Ron Wyatt located ancient Succoth. Realizing from the Hebrew's encampment there that the only southern route to avoid the Philistines was through a series of wadis to the western edge of a coastal mountain range on the west side of the Gulf of



Aqaba. Following the Biblical narrative that God told Moses to turn back and encamp by the Sea. Only one place fit the description of the Hebrews entrapment by sea and mountains; Nuweiba beach.

In 1978 diving in the waters off Nuweiba, Ron and his sons found coral encrusted chariot parts, skeletal remains and a pillar laying in the water's edge. A matching pillar was later found on the Saudi side with inscriptions indicating it's being erected by Solomon to commemorate the site of the miraculous crossing."

GOD IS SPEAKING THROUGH ME TO TELL YOU: "SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE OF COUNTRYSIDE AND TELL THEM TO GO FORWARD!"

1. We are going forward in Leadership.

I am announcing a special business meeting on Wednesday Night, September 2, 2009. The purpose of this meeting is to ask you to call Bill Keith Back home. He was ordained here, trained here, and served here. We loaned him to Otter Creek and he has accomplished his mission there and we need him here. The meeting will be at 6:30 on September 2. If you have any questions simply asked any one of our deacons or trustees.

I, like Moses, am obeying God and pointing my rod in that direction. If you will follow me you will see our church begin to grow again.

The way forward is a way of necessity. A church will either glow and grow or it will dry and die. (Memorize this). A church will evangelize or it will fossilize.

2. We are going forward in Organization

Deacons: I want to elect a few more deacons. It won't be a popularity contest. I will

follow our Constitution and present several names and you will decide whether you want them or not.

Finance Committee: I am going to appoint a Finance Committee who, for the first in time in the history of our church, will be responsible for working with the pastor in preparing budgets for our church and our two schools.

Regular Meetings: Deacons, Trustees, and the School Board are going to have regular meetings. They will be on the second Sunday night of each month. Reports will be given monthly from our various ministries. There will be a monthly financial report on a spread sheet by Quick Book. The church will have a quarterly meeting and one annual meeting.

3. We are going to go forward in Personal Spiritual fitness.

Every member of our church must grow spiritually. Spiritual growth is just like physical growth. A person is born as a baby and begins nursing from his/her mother before moving up to solid foods. They begin in diapers and then when they are potty trained, move up to regular clothes. A baby crawls, then pulls up, stands up, and then walks and runs.

Church members are no different. They are born again, wear diapers, and suck a bottle. Then, they learn to walk on their own, and finally eat solid food and meat. When they are mature they are supposed to win and train somebody else through the same process.

This is Biblical: The Bible talks about immature church members who are still sucking on the bottle.

(I Cor. 3:1-4)

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions,

I have prepared something for your personal

spiritual growth. Its title is "How to Shape Up Spiritually." I want to ask every person here to take one and read it before you go to bed tonight. I also want to challenge you to try this plan for the next ninety days and see what happens in your life.

4. God wants us to move forward in Stewardship.

In most churches, twenty percent of the people pull the wagon and eighty percent of the people ride in the wagon. The tithers pull the wagon, the non-tithers ride.

The 20 percent who tithe are also the ones who get most of the blessings because they have obeyed God and God keeps His promises to them.

I am going to challenge you today who do not tithe, to begin tithing and keep it up for ninety days.

You may say, "I can't afford to tithe." I'm telling you, you can't afford not to tithe.

All I am saying is to put your money where your mouth is. You say you trust God, then prove it.

(Mal. 3:10)

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I am challenging you to obey God for the next ninety days and see what God does.

5. We must go forward in Christian Education.

We believe it is God's will for every child of every serious Christian be in a Christian School.

We want to build our school from the bottom up, not from the top down. Our Riverside School is full but Countryside is not. We only have room for 16 students. We have room for six in K-3 and ten in the Elementary Learning Center.

I will personally give you \$100 each for every student you can find and get enrolled in our school. Find 10 students and I will give you \$1000 cash!!

6. We are going forward in our Building Programs (plural).

We have needed a building for thirty years and it is my fault, not yours, that we don't have one. But we are going to have one. In fact, we are going to have two: One here and one at Riverside. I believe God will supply the money.

7. We are going forward in Evangelism.

The way forward is a way of necessity. A church will either glow and grow or it will dry and die. (Memorize this). A church will evangelize or it will fossilize.

We have not gone forward since Bill left. We used to have EE teams going out every week and people being saved every week. Several of you are certified EE trainers. Others have taken the training in FAITH.

If you will listen to me, follow me, and try to call Bill back, we will go forward again. Bill is the reason there are twenty men from our Association in the Bahamas right now working on a school in Nassau.

8. We are going forward in Volunteer Christian Service.

Everybody should be doing something for the Lord through our church. We could use volunteers to help us every day in our school. Some of you could help direct traffic. Some of you could help in our Learning Centers (find scoring violations). Some could help by washing the dish towels in the kitchen. Some of you have skills you could use in our new building.

9. We are going to move forward in consistent Bible study.

Every member of our church should be involved in Bible study every week. We need a new members class. We need new Sunday School Classes. We need meetings for those who work on Sunday. We are starting a Beth Moore

study on Tuesday Nights. Plan to get "plugged in" somewhere.

INVITATION

Are you ready to follow me and move forward in these areas? What is God leading you to do today?

- Forward in leadership?
- Forward in organization?
- Forward in personal spiritual fitness?
- Forward in stewardship?
- Forward in Christian Education?
- Forward in our building programs (plural)?
- Forward in Evangelism?
- Forward in volunteer service?
- Forward in consistent Bible Study?

Tell me what you are going to do!

GOD BLESS YOU!

You may contact Pastor Gene by Email:
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You may also download copies of all of our sermons on our church website:
cbcgainesville.net