

# God's Direction for Difficult Times Pt. 3

## Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan. 19

Pr. 3:5-9 *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honor the LORD..."*

What's involved in "acknowledging God"? (yada) to recognize, understand, know.

What's the benefit of doing this? *"He shall direct thy paths..."* (See Ps. 16:9)

What does it mean to *"Honor the Lord?"* vs 9 (kaw-bad) to give "weight" (value), glorify.

Enduring Dark Times Requires that we learn how to *"walk by faith, and not by sight"* (2 Cor. 5:7)

God recorded the journey of Israel to teach us how to do this. (Heb. 3,4; 2 Cor 10:11)

**Ex. 14 provides examples of the principles of this process.**

➤ Number One: Remember Who Brought You Here: (Ps. 37:23)

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."*

➤ Number Two: Be More Concerned With God's Glory Than Yours. (Ps. 115:1)

*"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory,"*

**Principle 3: FACE THE CRISIS, BUT FOCUS ON THE LORD (Vs 10)**

*(Notice The Problem, But "Know" {Pr 3:6} The Lord.)*

**1. Notice The Parallels** (1 Cor 10:11) *"these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition. "ensamples": too'-pos: a model or a pattern.*

**A. Between ancient Israel and ourselves.**

1) We're both the chosen of God. (Compare Ex. 19:5,6 with 1 Peter 2:9,10)

2) Both had to be redeemed through blood. (Compare Ex. 12:21-27 with 1 Cor 5:7; 1 Pt. 1:18)

**B. Between Egypt and the modern World.**

1) Both promise "beauty" but lead to bondage (Gal. 4:3; 1 Jn 2:15,16; Col. 2:8)

**C. Between Pharaoh and Satan.**

1) Both are proud and subtle. (Ex. 1:10 and 2 Cor 11:1-3)

2) Both try to get us to compromise God's will.

a) Don't go "too far." (Ex. 8:28) *Serve God without Severing ties with the world.*

b) Leave your families behind. (Ex. 10:11) *Serve God without Support.*

c) Leave your cattle behind. (Ex. 10:24) *Serve God without Sacrifice.*

3) Both represent the leader of this world.

a) Satan is called the *"god of this world."* (2 Cor 4:4) See also Col 1:13; 1 Jn 5:9

4) Neither will give up without a fight. (1 Pt 5:8)

**2. Notice the Pitfalls. (Tendencies)**

**A. Ignorance of Satan's schemes.** 2 Cor. 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

**B. Indifference to Satan's schemes.**

The word "watch" (guard) is found repeatedly in Scripture related to Satan. 1 Peter 5:8,9  
*If we're ignorant or indifferent to him, We'll end up cooperating with him. (Ex, 14:11,12)*

### C. Preoccupation with Satan's Schemes.

- 1) The Bible has a lot to say about Satan. (He's mentioned some 107 times)  
(See Acts 13:10; 26:18; 2 Tim 2:26; Ro. 16:17-20; 2 Cor. 2:11; 12:7; 1 Thes. 2:18; 1 Cor 5:5; 7:5; 10:20,21; Eph. 2:1-5; 4:26,27, etc.)
- 2) But it has a lot more to say about God! God/ Jesus/ LORD/ Christ is mentioned > 12,000 Times.  
Which should we focus on? (Heb. 12:1-3)

### 3. Notice the Prayer. Ex. 14:10 "They cried out unto the LORD!"

#### A. There are some crises where the only choices will be to Pray or Panic.

"God brings us into straits that He may bring us to our knees." Matthew Henry

- 1) We "Focus" on God when we Pray. Phil. 4:6,7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer ...  
Prayer: Pros: toward and eucharist: Worship God
- 2) When we focus on our problems, We Panic. Pr. 29:25 "The fear of man brings a snare:  
*but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*" šāgab': Strong See Is. 40:31  
When we can't press forward, move sideward, or step backward, then it's time to look upward!  
Ps. 50:15 "call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

#### B. The greater the Crisis, the more intense the prayer. "They cried unto the LORD" vs 10

Jms 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- 1) Their prayer was:  
Urgent; United (Their natural Division was temporarily overcome by their mutual distress!)  
But ultimately Unbelieving. (There was More despair than prayer) 10,11
- 2) Our response to difficult circumstances reveals the magnitude of our faith.  
"Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow; it makes it fly swifter and straighter to pierce the throne of Grace." Thomas Watson (Puritan writer)  
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) "Do not pray for easy lives, Pray to be stronger men.  
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, Pray for powers equal to your task."

"I prayed for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might obey.

I prayed for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I prayed for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I prayed for power to have the praise of men. I was given weakness to feel the need of God.

I prayed for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I received nothing that I asked for- *but all that I hoped for and Needed.*"

Prayer of an unknown soldier

**Conclusion:** God intentionally led Israel into a Trap,  
so that they could learn the power of Trust!

**Application:** When God leads you into difficult circumstances, remember:

- 1) He Brought You Here on Purpose and for His purposes: (Ps. 37:23; Ro. 8:28,29)
- 2) Be More Concerned With God's Glory Than Yours. (Ps. 115:1)
- 3) Face The Problem, But Focus On The Lord 2 Cor 3:18  
*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image (Pr. 8:29) from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*