

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT

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Text: Exodus 14

Have you ever felt trapped by your problems? When you lay down at night do your worries get in bed with you? Do you tell yourself, "If I can get some sleep things will look better tomorrow" only to find that the same situations are waiting on you when you awake?

■ **Max Lucado writes in his book *Six Hours One Friday*, "Sleep, for many, is not a robber but a refuge - eight hours of relief for our wounded souls.**

And if you are kept awake, it's not by counting your fingers but by counting your debts, tasks or even your tears. You're tired. You're weary. Weary of being slapped by the waves of broken dreams. Weary of being stepped on and run over in the endless marathon to the top. Weary of trusting in someone only to have that trust returned in an envelope with no return address. Weary of staring into the future and seeing only futility." (28-9)

The strength of futility is its apparent finality. We begin to believe that things will never change. We need someone to reassure us that there is hope. In this timeless story of the Red Sea crossing we find that, with God, there's always hope and it's always too early to give up. ***Listen once again to this story and hear one more time the promise of God – God will always make a way out.***

I. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT WHEN YOUR BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL (vv. 1-10).

A. Satan wants you to believe that there's no way out and the walls are closing in (v. 3-4).

When the Israelites had no where else to go, the LORD gave Moses a plan...and reassured him in Exodus 14:3-4. God said, "Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." NIV

Let me ask you, when you have done everything right and you still end up between a rock and a hard place, what does it mean?

B. Satan wants you to believe that he will overcome you (v. 9).

Verse 9 tells us that "The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops--pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea..." NIV

C. The enemy wants fear to blind you vision of faith (v.10).

Verse 10 tells us that, "As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD."

When the children of Israel **saw** the Egyptians "they were very afraid. Satan will box you in an attempt to keep your eyes of the Lord.

D. So, what do you do when there's no where to go'? You continue to trust!

Elizabeth Elliot writes, "True faith goes into operation when there are no answers.

II. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT WHEN YOUR PROBLEM IS BIGGER THAT YOU (vv. 11-20).

A. Satan would have you to believe there's no escaping your problems (vv. 11-12).

They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

One day Linus and Charlie Brown are walking along and chatting with one another. Linus says, "I don't like to face problems head on. I think the best way to solve problems is to avoid them. In fact, this is a distinct philosophy of mine. No problem is so big or so complicated that it can't be run away from!"

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 16.

Why would God deliver His children and then allow them to be plagued by the enemy?

B. God wants you to know the battle is His (vv. 13-14).

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."

Every problem we face is an opportunity to see God work.

The victory is obtained by going forward with the Lord (vv. 15-20).

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. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. NIV

III. GOD WILL MAKE A WAY OUT EVEN IF HE HAS TO TAKE YOU THROUGH THE MIDDLE IMPOSSIBILITY (vv. 21-31).

A. God always points us in the direction of impossibility (vv. 16 & 21).

Verse 16. *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.*

Verse 21. *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided...*

B. God always makes us walk our way through our problems (vv. 22-25).

...and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt..." NIV

**C. God always uses that which blesses us to destroy the enemy -
- His power.**

D. God is always glorified in the middle of impossibility (vv. 30-31).

That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. NIV

George Muller said, "Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends." (Rowell, 60)

CONCLUSION

If you want a wonderful experience, take your New Testament and use a concordance to look up the two little words, "**but God.**" See how many times human resources have been brought to an utter end; despair has gripped the heart and pessimism and gloom has settled upon a people; and there is nothing that can be done. Then see how the Spirit of God writes in luminous letters, "But God," and the whole situation changes into victory.

-- Ray C. Stedman, Man of Faith. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 5.

John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands. One night hostile natives surrounded the mission station, intent on burning out the Patons and killing them. Paton and his wife prayed during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see their attackers leave. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Christ. Remembering what had happened, Paton asked the chief what had kept him from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men with you there?" Paton knew no men were present--but the chief said he was afraid to attack because he had seen hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords circling the mission station.

Today in the Word, MBI, October, 1991, p. 18.