

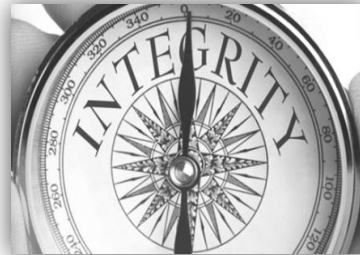
G:love 10 The Long Way To Maturity

Focused Living Ministries

Exodus 13-14

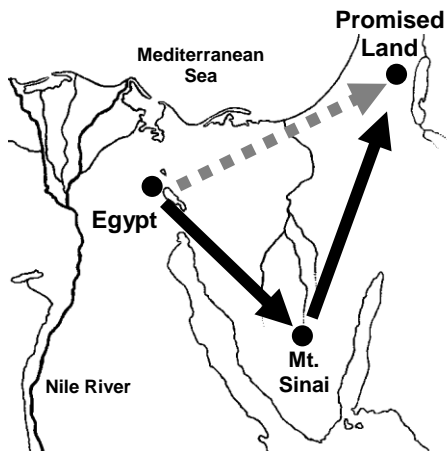
“The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Prov 16:9

Our awesome God is calling His men to follow the **COMPASS** of His character rather than chase after the goals of their **CALENDARS** or seek the timing of their **CLOCKS**. Our gracious Father asks us to trust His direction for and timing in our lives. **Give an example of your plans being superseded by God’s steps for your life.**



(Ex 13:3, 9, 14, 16) After being enslaved for 430 years, God’s people celebrated their freedom from bondage to the Egyptians and, more importantly, their bondage to sin by celebrating Christ’s Passover 1500 years before He died on the Cross (Exodus 12:12-14; Rom 6:16-18; John 8:34). Once freed God graciously led His 2.5 million people out of Egypt to the Promised Land, but first He needed to teach them about His character in order to help them to grow in their new found faith. **Where have you seen the “powerful hand of the Lord” [God Moments] that helped you to learn more about His character? What character qualities was God trying to teach His people, and you? What life principles does He want you to “remember”?** (3)

(Ex 13:8, 14; Deut 6:1-9; Eph 6:4; Psalm 78:1-8; II Tim 3:15) What key responsibility did God immediately assign to His men? Why? How have you been faithful to the assignment of telling your family about God moments?



TESTS (Ex 13:17-18) **BECAUSE I HAVE CALLED YOU INTO A _____ WITH ME, I WILL TEST OFTEN TO SEE IF YOU WANT MY JOY OR THE WORLD’S HAPPINESS.** Men often hear God best during harsh wilderness seasons of life. Adversity reveals if a man wants God or just His blessings, whether he desires the gifts or the Giver? A to Me, or A to B.

DIRECTS (Ex 13:18, 21-14:3; Deut 1:29-33; Psalm 25:4-6) **BECAUSE I CAN SEE WHAT IS COMING AT YOU, I WILL _____ LEAD YOU EVERY DAY AND IN EVERY WAY.** He will carefully lead you through the wilderness (hard times) and when you are backed up to the Red Sea (impossible times). N= Strong enemy fortresses. S= Blazing desert. W= Egyptian army. E= Red sea/no boat or bridge. Why does God often back His men into a corner? What is He trying to teach us? (Hint: Ex 14:4, 18, 30-31; Jeremiah 32:16-19, 20; Zechariah 4:6; Luke 22:39-44; Isaiah 58:11) Which of His character qualities did the Lord teach your life seemed boxed in or trapped?

PLAN (Ex 14:4-10; Job 1:8; 2:3; Isaiah 41:10) **BECAUSE I HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE AS MY ADOPTED CHILD, YOU WILL HAVE TO _____ WHEN I WILL DO SOME THINGS THAT YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.** The Father will do whatever it takes to help you experience His power in warfare and appreciate His Person in worship.

SILENT (Ex 14:11-14) **BECAUSE I AM YOUR SOVEREIGN CREATOR, I WILL ENLARGE YOUR VISION OF MY _____ AND _____.** So be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10). Be the ‘glove’ and let Me be the ‘Hand.’ Stop trying to achieve things for Me and receive from Me the things that I have ordained for your life.

ADVANCE (Ex 14:15-22) **BECAUSE I AM YOUR FATHER, I WILL HELP YOUR FAITH MOVE _____ AS YOU FOCUS ON MY CHARACTER RATHER THAN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.** Remember that I am God and you are NOT!

GRIP (Ex 14:23-15:2) **BECAUSE I AM GOD, WHEN YOUR _____ IS GRIPPED BY MY _____ THEN YOUR HANDS WILL DO WHAT IS ON MY HEART.** And we will have such joy in celebrating our relationship.

TAG TEAM DISCUSSION Why does maturity take soooooo long? Which excites/scares you the most? Where does it seem the Father leading you the long way in life to maturity? Be specific.