

# 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."*