Goal

Look at faith & obedience as they relate to strongholds.

Look at the process for developing faith and obedience.

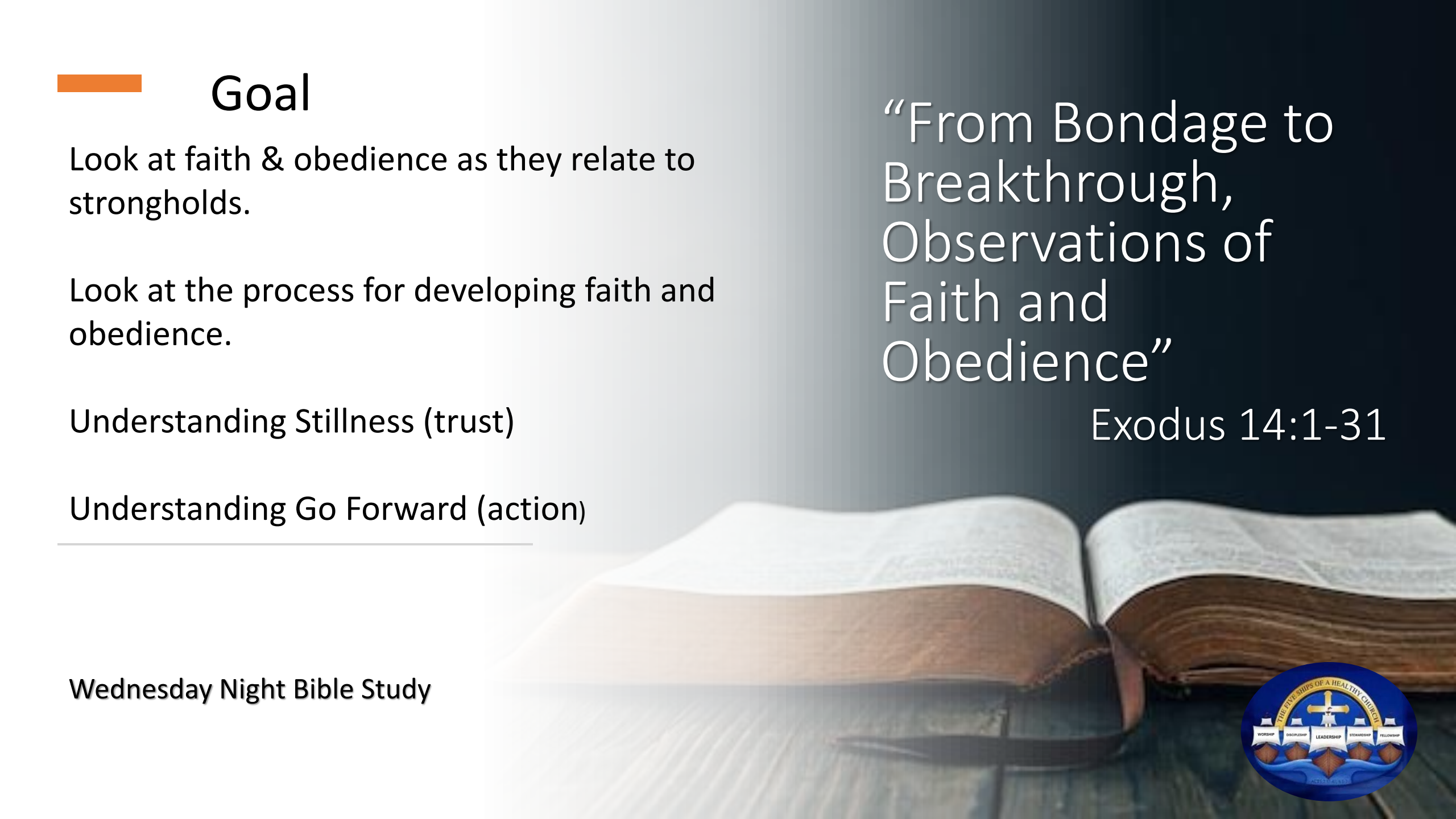
Understanding Stillness (trust)

Understanding Go Forward (action)

Wednesday Night Bible Study

“From Bondage to Breakthrough, Observations of Faith and Obedience”

Exodus 14:1-31



Exodus 14:1-4 God Positions Israel for His Glory
Sometimes God leads you into difficult places to reveal His power

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: **2** “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. **3** For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They *are* bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ **4** Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* the LORD.” And they did so.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses…This phrase emphasizes the direct communication between God and Moses, highlighting the unique relationship Moses had with God as a prophet and leader of Israel. Moses’s role as a mediator between God and the people is crucial, as he receives divine instructions and conveys them to the Israelites. This communication is part of a larger narrative where God provides specific guidance for the Israelites' journey, demonstrating His sovereignty and the importance of **obedience** to His commands. Moses' leadership is symbolic of Christ, who is the ultimate mediator between God and humanity.

Pi-hahiroth - “Mouth of the Gorge/Narrow Place

God sometimes leads you into tight places to display His power

Migdol -” Tower” or Military Outpost

Even after deliverance, you may still feel watched, pressured, or threatened by what God has already brought you out of

Why did God choose this exact spot? **TO ELIMINATE HUMAN SOLUTIONS**

Mountains on the sides, the Egyptian army behind, and the sea in front. The results

NO STRATEGY, NO ESCAPE PLAN - ONLY GOD

Why would God lead the Israelites to the longest route (pathway) to freedom? A 30 to 40-day walk took 40 years.

God did not allow the Israelites to take the shortest and fastest route to freedom because they were not yet prepared for what lay ahead. Preparedness was at the heart of God's decision. He knew that freedom requires more than a change of location. It demands a transformation of mind, character, and faith. The longer journey through the **wilderness** was God's training ground. In this place, He could teach them to depend on Him daily, build their trust through miracles like **manna** and water from the rock, and shape them into a nation spiritually equipped to possess the Promised Land. Israel had just left Egypt, but their faith was still developing. **The detour was never a delay—it was divine preparation.** ***He led them there to transform the situation into a testimony***

Exodus 14:5-9

The enemy often pursues hardest after your deliverance begins

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled,
and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the
people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let
Israel go from serving us?” 6 So he made ready his chariot and
took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice
chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every
one of them. 8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king
of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children
of Israel went out with boldness. 9 So the Egyptians pursued
them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and
his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi
Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

Exodus 14:10-12

Fear vs Faith

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes,
and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid,
and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 Then they said to
Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away
to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up
out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying,
‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been
better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the
wilderness.”

Exodus 14:10-12

Fear vs Faith

Fear will make you forget. Fear will make you think and talk crazy. The same people who saw the plagues now panic. They preferred slavery over uncertainty. Fear is a natural human response, but it should drive us to seek God rather than paralyze us. Prayer should be our first response in times of trouble, seeking God's guidance and intervention.

13 But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. 14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

Exodus 14:13-14

Faith is spoken

What ‘Stand Still” Really Means

It does not mean:

Do nothing

Be passive

It does Mean:

Trust God’s control

Obey His instructions

Stay positioned in faith

Stillness is about inner posture (trust)

Movement is about outer obedience (action)

Standing still doesn’t mean doing nothing; it means having faith while obeying.

How Does Obedience and Faith Work Together?

Obedience puts you in a position
Faith sustains you in the process
Faith is not passive – obedience activates God’s power

“Faith Hears God's Voice; Obedience Answers His Call.”
“Faith Starts the Journey; Obedience Completes the Walk.”
“Faith Sees God's Hand; Obedience Takes God’s Hand.”

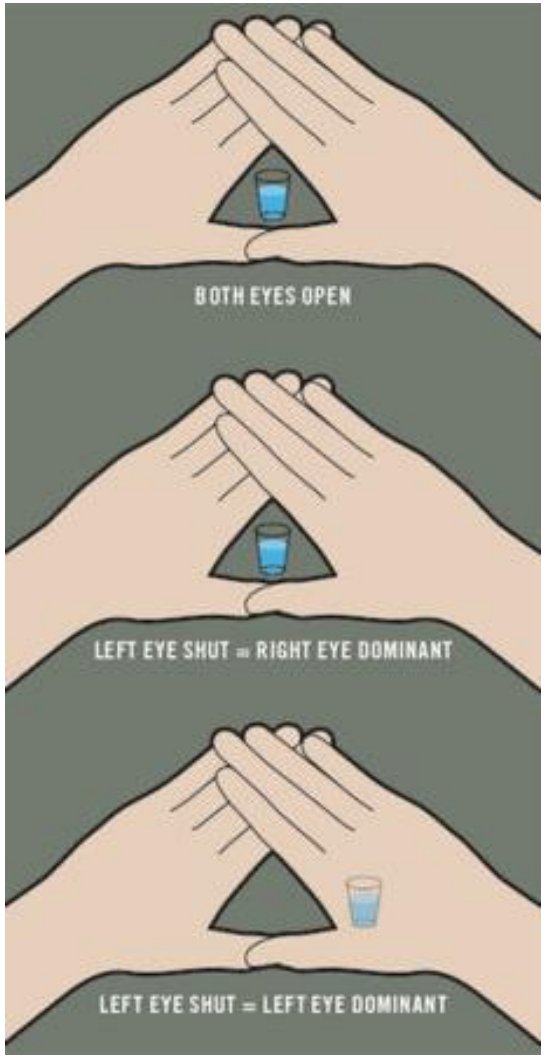
An Illustration

The doctor positions a patient during an eye exam. The doctor places you in a specific chair, adjusts the equipment, and shines lights into your eyes. Sometimes the light is uncomfortable, and the lenses seem to blur your vision before the doctor makes it clearer. Yet the doctor's purpose is not to confuse you but to help you see accurately.

Likewise, **God** often positions us in circumstances that we may not fully understand. He may allow us to experience challenges, delays, or uncomfortable situations so He can reveal things about Himself, strengthen our faith, and correct our spiritual vision. Just as the eye doctor changes lenses and asks, "Which is clearer, one or two?" God uses life's experiences to help us distinguish between fear and faith, doubt and trust, disobedience and obedience, our perspective and His perspective. What seems uncomfortable in the moment is God's way of helping us see Him more clearly.

The right-eye/left-eye dominant test can be a powerful illustration of **faith and obedience** because it demonstrates how what we focus on determines what we see, trust, and follow.

1.Extend their arms and form a small triangle with their hands.
2.Focus on a distant object through the opening.
3.Close one eye, then the other.
4.They will discover that one eye keeps the object centered (dominant eye), while the other causes the object to shift or disappear.



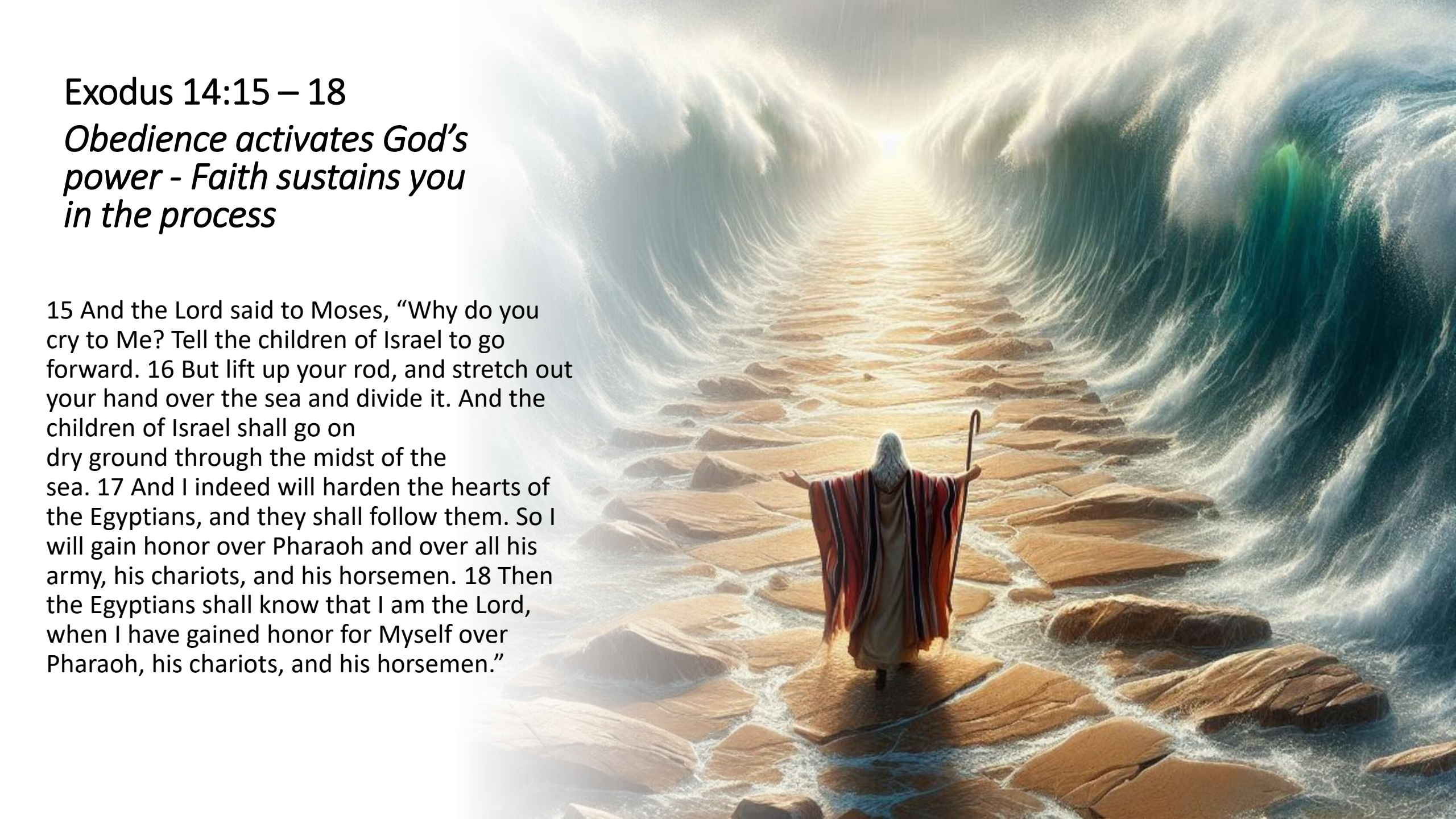
Just as the body has a dominant eye, every person has a **dominant perspective** through which they view life. The question becomes: **Are we seeing through the eye of faith or the eye of fear?**

"The right-eye/left-eye dominance test teaches us that everyone sees life through a dominant lens. When fear becomes dominant, obstacles appear larger than God. But when faith becomes dominant, we begin to see God's power, His promises, and His path of deliverance. Like Israel at the Red Sea, faith focuses on God, and obedience follows His direction—even before the waters part."

Exodus 14:15 – 18

Obedience activates God's power - Faith sustains you in the process

15 And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you
cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go
forward. 16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out
your hand over the sea and divide it. And the
children of Israel shall go on
dry ground through the midst of the
sea. 17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of
the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I
will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his
army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then
the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord,
when I have gained honor for Myself over
Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."



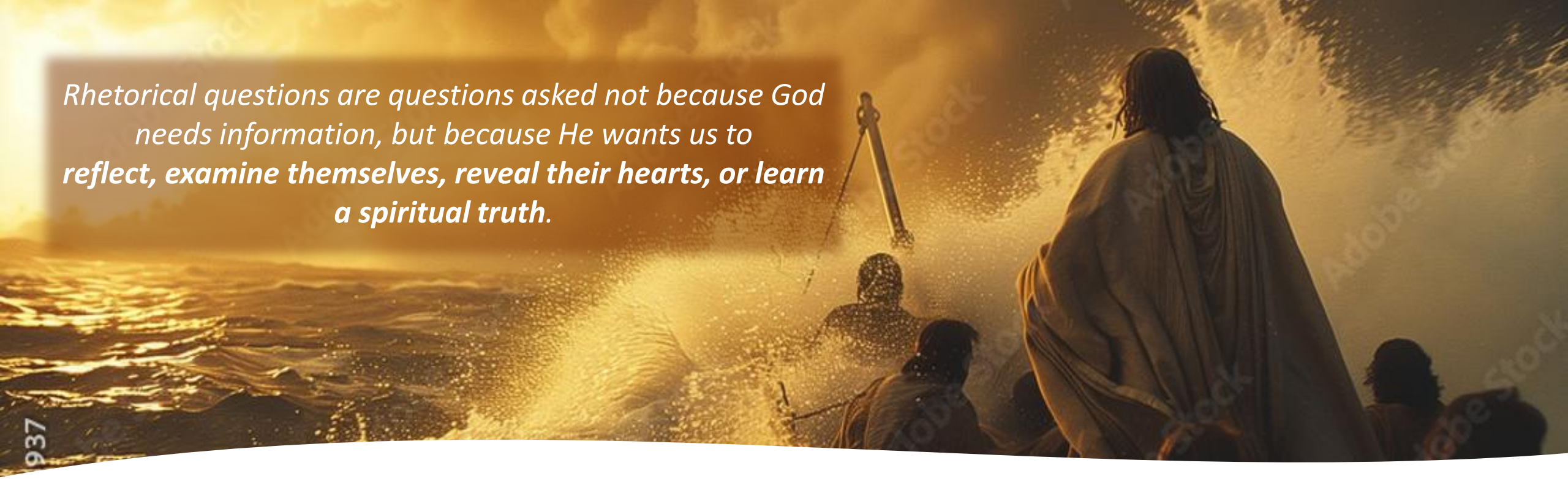
Obedience activates God’s power - Faith sustains you in the process

“Tell the Israelites to go forward.”

This command is a call to action, urging the Israelites to move despite the apparent obstacle of the Red Sea. It demonstrates a test of **faith**, where **obedience** to God's command precedes the miracle of the sea parting. This forward movement is symbolic of faith in God's promises, here faith precedes divine intervention. It also foreshadows the Christian journey of faith, where believers are called to move forward in trust, even when the path seems impossible.

“Why are you crying out to Me?”

This rhetorical question suggests that Moses, or possibly the Israelites through Moses, were in a state of desperation or seeking divine intervention. It highlights a moment of crisis at the Red Sea, where faith is being tested. The question implies that action, reflecting a biblical principle that faith often requires stepping forward in trust.



Mark 4:40 — "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"
After Jesus calmed the storm: "And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?“

Jesus already knew why the disciples were afraid. They were in a violent storm and feared for their lives.
The questions were intended to challenge their perspective.

"After all you've seen Me do, why are you still doubting?"
"Why are you focusing on the storm instead of My presence?"
"Have you forgotten who is in the boat with you?"

God Protects His People

Exodus 14:19-20

19 Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. 20 The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.

God Protects His People Exodus 14:19-20

The "angel of God" is often understood as a manifestation of God Himself, or a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. This divine presence had been leading the Israelites since their departure from Egypt, symbolizing God's guidance and protection.

This movement signifies a shift from guidance to protection. By moving behind the Israelites, the angel of God positions Himself between the Israelites and the pursuing Egyptian army, demonstrating God's role as a protector. This act of divine intervention is reminiscent of God's promise to be a shield to His people. It also foreshadows the protective role of Christ, who stands between believers and their adversaries.

Exodus 14:21-25

The Red Sea Parts

Faith is demonstrated (walking through the sea)

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and
the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that
night, and made the sea into dry *land,* and the waters
were divided. **22** So the children of Israel went into the midst of the
sea on the dry *ground,* and the waters *were* a wall to them on their
right hand and on their left. **23** And the Egyptians pursued and went
after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots,
and his horsemen. **24** Now it came to pass, in the morning watch,
that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through
the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the
Egyptians. **25** And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove
them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "**Let us flee from the face of Israel**, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

… strong east wind. God uses process, not just instant results. God's deliverance may unfold over time; trust the process.

Exodus 14:25 reveals that God can intervene directly in human affairs, turning the strength of our enemies into weakness and causing even those who oppose Him to recognize His power.

Three Significant Points

1. God Can Disable the Enemy's Advantage. No obstacle, opposition, or adversary is greater than God's power to intervene.

2. God Fights for His People. There are battles where God's intervention is more important than human effort.

3. God's Power Becomes Evident to Everyone. When God moves, both believers and unbelievers can see His hand at work.

Exodus 14:26-31

Deliverance

Faith is established (v. 31 –they believe)

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” 27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

God opened a pathway through the Red Sea that was wide enough and long enough for every Israelite to pass through safely. Not one person whom God intended to save was left behind. This miraculous deliverance points to Jesus Christ, who declared that He would lose none of those the Father had given Him. Just as God made a complete way through the sea for Israel, Christ has made a complete way of salvation for all who come to Him by faith. The path of redemption is sufficient, secure, and certain because God's purpose is to bring His people all the way through.

Related Scriptures:
John 6:39 – "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.“

John 10:27-29 – "My sheep hear my voice... and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.“

Isaiah 43:2 – "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee..."

From Experiencing God, We can Say…

Romans 8:28

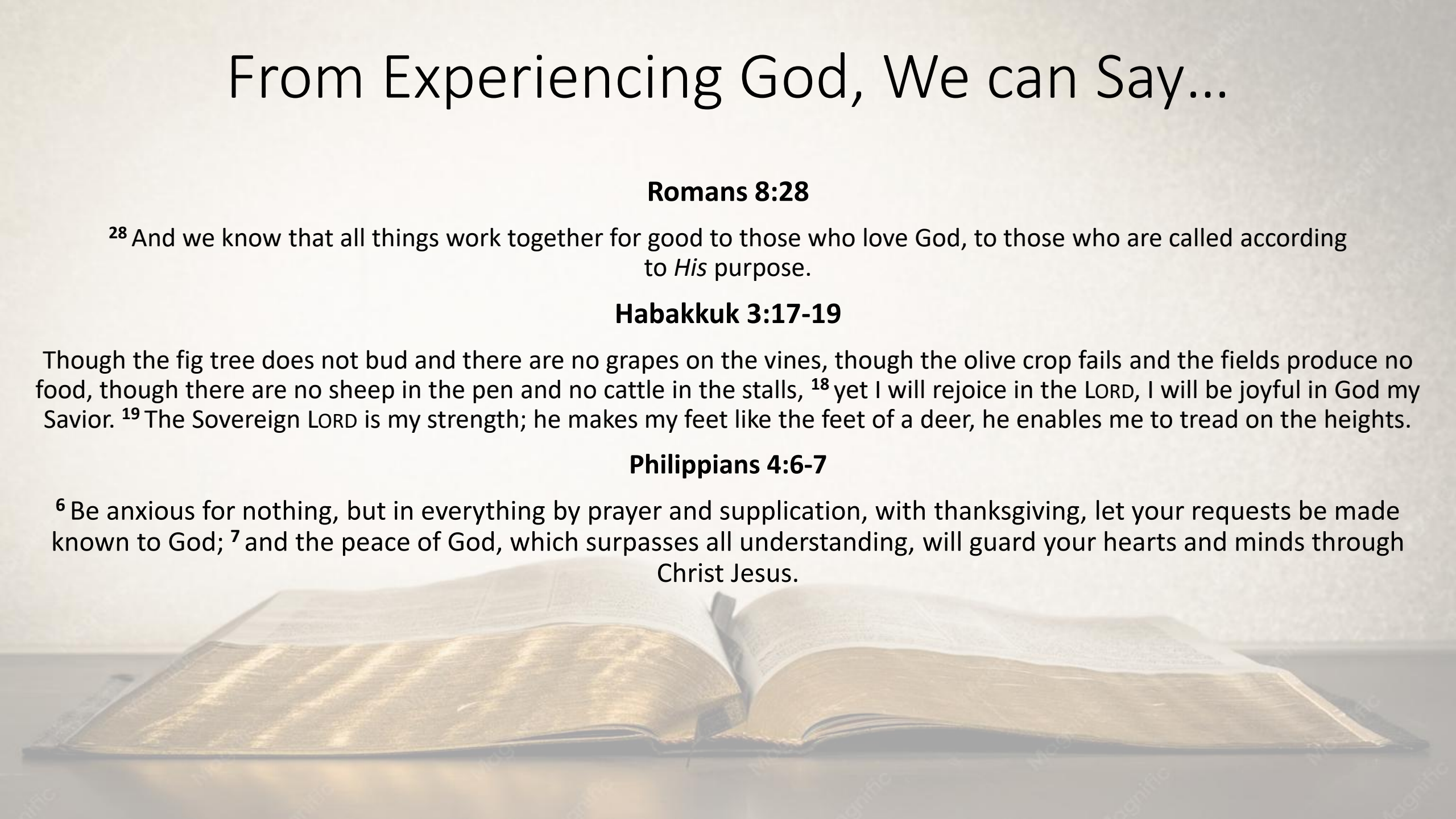
28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. 19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



From Experiencing God, We can Say…

1 Chronicles 29:11

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours."

Isaiah 6:3

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!“

Note: “The LORD of hosts, The LORD of Heaven’s Armies”

Jeremiah 32:17

"Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.“

You are Holy, Holy, Holy

In Summary

Trusting the Process

- **Deliverance** – Freed from bondage. **Faith** to Believe God's Deliverance. **Obedience** to reject fear
- **Transition** – Learning to trust God in the wilderness. **Faith** is trusting God's direction, **Obedience** to Step Forward
- **Transformation** – Old slave mentality replaced with your covenant identity. **Faith** believes the past is broken and **obedience** means leaving the past behind.
- **Preparation** – Receiving God's law and instruction. **Faith** to Trust God Through the Process, and **obedience,** keep walking towards the mark
- **Inheritance** – Entering the Promised Land as a free people. **Faith** means embracing your new identity, and **obedience** lives as God's people.

Exodus 14

Application

Identify one current “Red Sea” in your life

Replace fear with one promise from God

Take one step forward in faith this week