

FAITH'S VISION FOR VICTORY

FOCUS

1 Jn. 5:4

1 Jn. 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

Our theme for 2020:

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

FAITH'S VISION FOR VICTORY

The Bible gives us the following information about faith:

Heb. 11:1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** ...

6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The example of Moses is one that parallels a believer's path to Christ:

I. Faith's Sanctifying Virtue, 11:24-26

- A. Over Social Position, 11:24
- B. Over Sinful Pleasure, 11:25
- C. Over Staggering Prosperity, 11:26

II. Faith's Solid Victory, 11:27

Heb. 11:27 **By faith he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king:
for **he endured, as seeing him who is invisible**.

- A. Over the Lure of the World, 11:27a "By faith he forsook Egypt..."
- B. Over the Lust of the Flesh, 11:27b "...not fearing the wrath of the king..."
- C. Over the Lies of the Devil, 11:27c "...for **he endured, as seeing him who is invisible**."

III. Faith's Spiritual Vision, 11:28-29

Heb. 11:28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

A. Consider the Timing, 11:24-28a

- ❖ Moses “**refused**” → position in humanity = humility
- “ **chose**” → denial of self and identification with God = honesty
- “ **esteemed**” → evaluation of preeminence = honor
- “ **respected**” → evaluation of priorities = heart
- “ **forsook**” → separation from worldliness = heroism
- “ **endured**” → determination to continue = hardened
- “ **saw**” → focused upon the Savior = holiness

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

❖ All of the events, the decisions and action, are listed BEFORE we get to the keeping of **the passover = the way to holiness before the Lord.**

B. Confronting the Terror, 11:28 **Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.**

❖ The life of Moses emphasized the FOCUS OF FAITH, specifically, upon the price of salvation.

This morning, we observe the challenge Moses faced, and how he handled it, **by faith**.

C. Contemplating the Temptation (crossing the Red Sea)

Heb. 11:29 **By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land:** which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Recap

- ❖ Moses' parents were an example of faith to him.
- ❖ At 40 years of age, he fled Egypt for the land of Midian.
- ❖ At 80 years of age, he saw a burning bush in the desert of Midian, met Jehovah, and received a commission to return to Egypt to deliver the Israelites out of bondage and travel to the Promised Land.
- ❖ After confronting the Egyptian gods with 10 plagues, the Israelites headed to the Promised Land.
- ❖ The Lord led Moses to take a difficult route.

Ex. 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near**; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

18 **But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea**: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

❖ The easy way is not always the best way – “...that **God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near...18 But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea...”**

❖ The way God chose was for protection, provision, and progression.

Job 23:10 But **he knoweth the way that I take**: *when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

❖ God's plan of leadership is not always explained, but expected to be followed:

Psa. 77:20 **Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

❖ The difficult way was an opportunity to see how the Lord was able to deliver them:

Isa. 63:11 Then **he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people,** *saying*, Where *is* he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where *is* he that put his holy Spirit within him?

12 **That led them by the right hand of Moses** with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

13 **That led them through the deep**, as an horse in the wilderness, *that* they should not stumble?

Psa. 77:16 **The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid:** the depths also were troubled. ...

20 **Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

❖ Too often the carnality of the Israelites blinded them from seeing God's plan.

❖ The way through the wilderness was more than met the natural eye:

1 Cor. 10:1 Moreover, brethren, **I would not that ye should be ignorant,** how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and **all passed through the sea;**

2 And were **all baptized unto Moses** in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And **did all eat the same spiritual meat;**

4 And **did all drink the same spiritual drink:** for they drank of that **spiritual Rock** that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.**

5 **But with many of them God was not well pleased:** for they were **overthrown in the wilderness.**

❖ The way in the wilderness requires the FOCUS of FAITH:

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.**

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

1. Trust – “Trust in the LORD...”

2. Totally – “...with all thine heart...”

3. Think – “...and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

4. Tell – “In all thy ways acknowledge him...”

5. Trust – “...and he shall direct thy paths.”

Summary

The Red Sea deliverance should be an encouragement to each of us when we face an apparent obstacle that appears insurmountable, hopeless, overwhelming odds.

Isa. 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, **Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.**

2 **When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee;** and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast **precious in my sight**, thou hast been honourable, and **I have loved thee**: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 **Fear not: for I am with thee**: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

- ❖ Moses considered a broad perspective of the seriousness when identifying with God.
- ❖ After considering seven perspectives, he submitted himself to the most important reality – “28 **Through faith he kept the passover**, and the sprinkling of blood...”
- ❖ By faith, Moses focused upon God’s plan for man:

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Conclusion

Here are 7 key ways by Jim Haudan to reframe adversity as a close friend rather than a fierce enemy.

1. Build Character---Overcoming adversity is character building. It shapes us into who we are and who we will become. It creates the confidence to overcome and the learning mechanisms to deal with the things that don't go our way.

2. Create Resilience---Learning to deal with and address adversity is what creates resilience. Every challenge we face and navigate strengthens our will, confidence, and our ability to conquer future obstacles.

3. Learn from Discomfort---Regardless how sharp, clever or talented we are, we will encounter struggles, challenges, difficulties, and at times, heart-wrenching moments. Is this to be avoided? adversity resounding, NO!. In times of adversity, we learn the most from the discomfort and rethink what's required to be successful.

4. Draw Out Our True Strengths---Adversity has the effect of drawing out our strengths and qualities that would have laid dormant without it.

5. Accept It---Accept that adversity is inevitable ...it is a part of life. To avoid it or resist it will only make it come back in bigger ways. Better yet see it and embrace it as a true gift on the road to getting better.

6. Build External Resources....Adversity helps us find a buddy. You will be surprised how often someone will have had a similar experience and can help guide you through a difficult time.

7. We Succeed Because of It---Make no mistake. We don't succeed in spite of our challenges; we succeed because of them!

In the words of Henry Ford---"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it".

<https://www.inc.com/jim-haudan/adversity-is-the-fuel-of-greatness.html>

Jas. 1:3 Knowing *this*, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

2 Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Eccl. 7:3 Sorrow *is* better than laughter: for **by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.**

Phil. 3:14 **I press toward the mark for the prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.