

## 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

II. Faith's Solid Victory, 11:27

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

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

B. Confronting the Terror, 11:28

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

C. Contemplating the Temptation

1. The Path of Deliverance – “By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*...”

Isa. 43:2 **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;

## Recap

- ❖ Moses, born in Egypt, departed for 40 years, and then was commissioned by God to return and lead the Israelites headed to the Promised Land.
- ❖ The Lord led Moses to take a difficult route.
- ❖ 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.”

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

## 2. The Path of Destruction – “...which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.”

### a. Deliverance versus Destruction

- ❖ The Israelites and the Egyptians faced the same obstacle – God did NOT remove it.
- ❖ Life is a perpetual challenge, full of obstacles – some people face them by faith, and others face them without faith.
- ❖ The Israelites passed through **by faith** -- Heb. 11:29 “**By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land...**”
- ❖ The Egyptians faced the obstacle without faith in God – only faith in themselves.

Prov. 12:15 **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:** but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Prov. 21:2 **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes:** but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Prov. 14:12 **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.** (Prov. 16:25)

- ❖ Both the Israelites and the Egyptians made choices and entered into the Red Sea.
- ❖ Choices → action, and though, at first, similarities of equality appear in the beginning, difference are clearly revealed at the end.
- ❖ The Israelites went through the Red Sea – so did the Egyptians...but they drowned.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus gave an illustration of choices, actions, and consequences:



Mt. 7:24 Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will **liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock**:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and **it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock**.

26 And every one that **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not**, shall be **likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand**:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and **it fell: and great was the fall of it**.

❖ Visions of progress may be deceptive and destructive – **the difference is the foundation**.

1 Cor. 3:11 For **other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ**.

- ❖ We have two builders – Both built. One survived and the other fell.
- ❖ Two went into the Red Sea: the Israelites walked by faith and crossed, and the Egyptians walked without faith and drowned.
- ❖ Walking by faith may be hazardous, but, walking without proper faith, the end is horrendous.

Ex. 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.

38 And **a mixed multitude went up also with them**; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

## b. Deception versus Dependable

Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

38 **This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

39 **To whom our fathers would not obey**, but thrust *him* from them, and **in their hearts turned back again into Egypt**,

40 Saying unto Aaron, **Make us gods to go before us**: for *as for* this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

- ❖ In the “church in the wilderness,” everyone saw the same miracles of deliverance and provisions from God.
- ❖ Many disobeyed – why?
- ❖ Turning “...back again into Egypt,” was not a literal action – it was mental/spiritual.
- ❖ Egypt, a type of the world, influenced some of the Israelites to turn their back on God.

Psa. 78:40 **How oft did they provoke him** in the wilderness, *and* **grieve him in the desert!**

41 Yea, **they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.**

❖ The influence of the world, and fellowship with it, is creates animosity from God.

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that **the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

❖ Believers make choices – chose wisely where to place your affection.

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For **all that *is* in the world**, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

Col. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

## Summary

- ❖ The confrontation at the Red Sea revealed the character and difference of faith between the Israelites and the Egyptians, and the consequences of choices:

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

- ❖ God's favor upon the Israelites were a blessing to others, even unbelievers "along for the ride."
- ❖ Eventually, some chose to "turn back" and lose God's blessings.
- ❖ Some choose God's path and some choose another pass – WHY?

Prov. 28:1 **The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.**

## Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 **Who gave himself for us**, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**