

Moving Right Along

Exodus 14.10-15
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Introduction: In Exodus chapter 14 we find Moses parting the Red Sea through which God commanded the Israelites to *go forward*. What happened to the Israelites that caused God to tell them to *go forward*? And comparatively, what stops us from going forward and progressing spiritually?

I. TRUST IN LEADERSHIP

- A. Israel had a lack of trust in Moses. (Exod. 14:10-12)
 - 1. "Why have you so dealt with us to bring us up out of Egypt? ...Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians." (vs. 12)
 - 2. How could Israel move forward into the promised land if they did not trust in their leader whom God appointed?
 - 3. Their attitude: "for it would have been better for us..." (vs 12)
- B. What about our trust in leaders of this congregation?
 - 1. Do we give them the "double honor" that is due them? Do we respect them and their position? (1 Tim. 5:17-19)
 - 2. Do we realize that they have been qualified according God's standards as found in First Timothy 3 and Titus 1?
 - 3. Do we carry the same "I know better than you" attitude as the Israelites did in Exodus 4:12? (cf. Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23)

II. GETTING PAST THE OBSTACLES

- A. Israel encountered 2 types of obstacles:
 - 1. A physical obstacle – the Red Sea. (13.17,18; 14.1)
 - 2. Mental obstacles – fear and worry. (14.10,11)
- B. What obstacles keep us from going forward spiritually?
 - 1. Physical obstacles – work, school, friends, activities, hobbies, luxuries (riches)? (1Tim 6.8-12; 1 Cor 15.33)
 - 2. Mental obstacles – fear and worry.
 - a. Fear rules out the possibility of succeeding. (2 Tim 1.7)
 - b. Worry causes us to lose focus and direction. (Phil 4.6,7)

Conclusion: Phil. 3.13,14 – Forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead. "Go forward" in faith and trust.