

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

---

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 2/11. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On the Tetragrammaton](#)
2. [On praying in the Spirit](#)
3. [On the historic evidence of the path the Israelites took from Egypt](#)

\*\*\***Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. \*\*\*

---

Pastor Mark picks up where he left off, and reviews the last four weeks on this "Journey to Freedom," looking historically at what the Israelites had to do on their journey to the Promised Land, "applying what we learned today to a spiritual perspective."

1. We acknowledged our slavery.
2. We said, "We cannot get free on our own strength. We need the Power of the Holy Spirit to help us."
3. As we moved to this place of freedom, we learned that we have to be "ALL IN." We cannot be of two worlds, Jesus—and; we have to be Jesus ONLY.
4. We learned that it is not easy.

"So today," says Mark, "we go from the place where we are released from the bondage of the past and have embarked on a journey that is unfamiliar, and that therefore 'isn't easy.'" He then prayed in the Spirit, and with understanding. (See [footnote 2](#) below.)

1. What do you see ahead?
2. Do you have a testimony from this week?

3. Why is it essential to know, as the journey continues, that God is working for you and with you, and you will not be making this journey alone?
4. Look up 2 Corinthians 5: [4](#)*So while we are in this tent, we groan under our burdens, because we do not wish to be unclothed but clothed, so that our mortality may be swallowed up by life.* [5](#)*And God has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come.* [6](#)*Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord.* [7](#)*For we walk by faith, not by sight.* [8](#)*We are confident, then, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.* [9](#)*So we aspire to please Him, whether we are here in this body or away from it.* [10](#)*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.* Explain what it means to walk by faith and not by sight.
5. Take a moment and discuss this: How does Paul's description of our walk compare to the walk away from Egypt that the Israelites experienced.
6. Do we know any more than they did what the Land of Promise looks like?
7. Mark compares giving your life to Jesus to the first step away from Egypt. Is this description apt? Explain.

Look up Exodus 13: [17](#)When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them along the road through the land of the Philistines, though it was shorter. For God said, "If the people face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." [18](#)So God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the Israelites left the land of Egypt arrayed for battle.

1. What do you see?
2. The Israelites left Egypt "arrayed for Battle." Why did they not go straight into battle with the Philistines if they were so arrayed?
3. What battle did the Israelites have to face first?
4. Were they arrayed for that battle?
5. Why is the Red Sea the first "foe" they have to face?
6. How do you array yourself for a battle with the Red Sea?
7. Might the Israelites have been able to conquer Philistines on their own? If they could have conquered, what would their boast have been?
8. What does God say their response to immediate war would have been?
9. Explain. Why is the Red Sea ahead of us and the Egyptian army behind us like the video Mark showed of the flying bride being yanked around?

Pastor Mark highlights his first point

- **Bondage is sticky and it wants to pull you back into slavery.** Explain. Mark says, "The enemy is real. He wants to kill, steal and destroy. He says, 'Oh, you think you're going to be free, but I know how to draw you back.'"
  1. Do you have a testimony?
  2. Have you ever been free for a time, and found yourself caught up again?

Mark says, "When you come to the Red Sea, you're dealing with the external forces. Egypt's army is coming after you. Once you've crossed the sea, it's not over yet. You still have the internal forces to deal with."

1. Explain. With Egypt, what were the external forces before and behind them?
2. What happened to Egypt's army? (Have you seen the video linked in footnote 1 [below](#), showing the coral formations in the Red Sea forming right angled circles, wheels having four or five spokes, as Egyptian chariots had?)
3. What are the external forces of addiction?
4. What are the internal forces you have to face after the crossing?

Look up Exodus 14: [8](#)And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out defiantly. [9](#)The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi-hahiroth, opposite Baal-zephon. [10](#)As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw the Egyptians marching after them, and they were terrified and cried out to the LORD. [11](#)They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us into the wilderness to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? [12](#)Did we not say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

[13](#)But Moses told the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the LORD's salvation, which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. [14](#)The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

[15](#)Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. [16](#)And as for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. [17](#)And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. Then I will gain honor by means of Pharaoh and all his army and chariots and horsemen. [18](#)The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I am honored through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

1. What do you see?
2. For what purpose was Pharaoh pursuing the Israelites?
3. Look at verse 11 above. When the people faced the Red Sea, what was their immediate response? Was their response to the approaching Egyptian army and the sea any different to the response to war God had predicted in 13:17 above? Was it even possible for them to return to Egypt from this spot?
4. Why not? Who now stood in their way?
5. Were the Israelites able to conquer a deep-sea crossing on their own? What do the Jews boast of to this day?
6. What conquers discouragement?
7. Facing the obstacles of sea and army of Egypt, to what were they willing to return? Do you have a testimony?
8. What is God's purpose in this plan (v. 17)? To what degree did He receive honor ?
9. Who in the world does not know this story today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How well did God's plan work?
10. Think of the emotions of this journey. As they left, their Egyptian neighbors plied them with gifts and wealth. Now they are being pursued to go further than they have ever gone into the unknown, by a fully armed "Egyptian Police Force." What is your response?

In the [video below](#) we see a beach on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea that is marked by an ancient pillar. It is wide, yet approached only through a narrow gully. At the mouth of the gully, and the very floor of the beach itself is "...hard as if melted in a glass furnace."

Look at the rest of the story in Exodus 14: [19](#)And the angel of God, who had gone before the camp of Israel, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from before them and stood behind them, [20](#)so that it came between the camps of Egypt and Israel. The cloud was there in the darkness, but it lit up the night. So all night long neither camp went near the other.

[21](#)Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind that turned it into dry land. So the waters were divided, [22](#)and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on their right and on their left.

[23](#)And the Egyptians chased after them—all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen—and followed them into the sea. [24](#)At morning watch, however, the LORD looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and cloud, and He threw their camp into confusion. [25](#)He caused their chariot wheels to wobble, so that they had difficulty driving. "Let us flee from the Israelites," said the Egyptians, "for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

1. What do you see?
2. If the beach in the video below is the beach from which the Israelites escaped, and the pathway to the first steps into the Red Sea crossing, as claimed; if the Egyptian army was indeed held at bay by a pillar of fire; explain what actual evidence does to the story of the Red Sea crossing.
3. What happens to fear when a pillar of Fire is your Guide and Protection?

Now look at Pastor's next point:

- **Faith follows the voice of hope.**

1. Explain.
2. Look up 1 Corinthians 13: [13](#)*And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.* Look up Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." Explain the relationship between hope and faith. How does love fit in?
3. How sure is hope? What is it based on?
4. How sure is God's promise, even if its substance remains unseen to date? Pastor says, "When we have faith, we cannot be launched into fear." Is that true?
5. Apply this to the Israelites at the shores of the Red Sea. What did they see?
6. What did they not see? Explain the fear.
7. Now, think back from Moses' first encounter with God at the burning bush to this day on the shores of the Red Sea. What was Moses' "Red Sea Moment" where he moved from fearful to fearless? How was he tried?
8. Consider Hebrews 4: [14](#)*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we profess. [15](#)For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. [16](#)Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* How does this fit into the story of Moses?

9. Was Moses tested in every way as the Israelites were?
  10. What quality does leadership acquire after passing through trials?
  11. How is hope made accessible by experience and testimony?
  12. What did Moses have that the Israelites did not have?
  13. What was that promise which Moses had heard?
  14. How was God's promise activated by Moses' response to Him and his actions?
  15. Look at Psalm 103:7 [He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel](#). Why is it better to know God's ways than His deeds?
  16. How do you learn God's ways?
  17. Pastor speaks of "pursuing freedom relentlessly." How does this fit with psalm 103:7 above?
  18. Look up Romans 15: [13](#) *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*. Explain how this fits. How much more fun is it to believe His promises?
  19. What does an "overflow" of hope look like? What happens to discouragement in the face of hope?
  20. Pastor says "This stage of your journey, you're still pretty close to that life of slavery you are leaving. It's going to feel like that bride on rubber bands that keep pulling you back. You've built habits the surround that bondage, there are triggers that surround those things. You have given a lot of power over to it. Your brain is wired to respond in a certain way." He says, "It's going to take time. Don't lose hope." Re-read Paul's admonition in Romans 15 above. Read it again. What does hope bring with it?
  21. Discuss this: How can you come to see the pillar of fire between you and your past bondage that you have left behind? How hot is that flame of protection, that can melt the sand and pebbles of a beach?
  22. Look back at Exodus 14:13 and 14 [above](#). What is the Israelites task? Is that an easy task or a hard one? Why?
  23. How does fear become a destroyer of hope? Look at Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil because you're with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me*. How does David's determination not to fear increase hope? Can you be determined not to fear?
  24. What is in the shepherd's rod and staff? What does the rod ward off? Whose head does it crack open? How is the staff used to lead? Why is that comforting?
  25. Pastor observes this principle: "Moses did not lead individuals to freedom, but the nation. [Freedom is found] in community. You have to be doing this in community." Why does he say life groups are so important?
  26. Review again what Jesus said in John 8, "So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free." What does this promise include? What does it not include? What is meant by "truly free?"
- **Faith's path brings obstacles for our benefit.**
    1. Explain.
    2. Review from above. What were the two possible obstacles the Israelites could have faced?
    3. Why did God choose the sea over the Philistines?

4. Look ahead: Having crossed the sea on dry land, why were the Israelites better equipped to face their enemies?
  5. Look up James 1: [2](#)*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, [3](#)because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance/patience...* How does this fit into the principles Mark is covering? What “obstacles” did the Israelites face that they should consider “all joy?”
  6. Could you have considered it all joy with no foreknowledge, but only the sea ahead and the army behind?
  7. Mark says, “We look at obstacles as defeat, when we need to look at obstacles as opportunity. It’s the knowledge that God will do a miracle.” Do you have a testimony?
  8. God chose the Red Sea over the Philistines. Mark says, “I want you to know, the obstacle is the way through to the promised land.” Look above at Exodus 14:17 and 18. What does God say will be the result among the Egyptians? Why is that important in the long run? Who will remember this story?
  9. Now consider what James adds to the above exhortation: [4](#)*Allow perseverance/patience to finish its work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking anything.* What happens if you allow perseverance to complete its work? What does “perfect and complete, lacking nothing...” look like?
  10. And if you do not allow perseverance to complete its work, what happens?
  11. How do you allow patience to complete its work? What is usually required of you if you seek patience? Are you good at allowing patience to complete its work?
- **With faith, the obstacle becomes the opportunity.** [26](#)*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” [27](#)So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal state. As the Egyptians were retreating, the LORD swept them into the sea. [28](#)The waters flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had chased the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. [29](#)But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on their right and on their left. [30](#)That day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore. [31](#)When Israel saw the great power that the LORD had exercised over the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and believed in Him and in His servant Moses.*
    1. As it turned out, explain how the insurmountable obstacle of the Red Sea became the path to freedom for the Israelites and the means of victory over their former masters.
    2. Now look above at verse 31. Who now has a testimony? What is the testimony of Israel?
    3. Revelation 12:11 says, “They overcame [the accuser of the brethren] by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even unto death...” Explain how the word of Israel’s testimony crossing the Red Sea has kept them through the centuries.
    4. Describe how Moses acted in obedience, and in doing so, released power in the Israelites to overcome the fear that sought to yank them back into slavery.
    5. How does obedience open the door to miracles?

6. Look at what the Centurion says to Jesus in Matthew 8, and explain how this principle works: *8The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes; and another to come, and he comes. I tell my servant to do something, and he does it." 10When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those following Him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. What authority does the centurion acquire by obeying those over him? What authority do we acquire when we act in obedience to the Law of Christ?*
7. Again, how did the obstacle become the weapon that actually destroyed the enemy?
- **Freedom's path places faith over fear and trust over doubt.** Pastor says, "Faith believes it can be done. Trust rests on the One Who can do it." Faith in the possibility has no resolution. Faith in the One Who promised, and in the promise He made is required. He says, "We must know the Holy Spirit Who is sent to do the work in you and through you. You need to have heightened faith. You need to have heightened trust, because Jesus is there with you in the full power of the Holy Spirit."
  1. Explain.
  2. It is said that doubt is the root of unbelief. Here's what James says, again in chapter 1: *5Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7That man should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* Put this in your own words. How does this explain why some prayers go unanswered?
  3. Look up Hebrews 11: *6And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.* Describe what that reward looks like?
  4. Does God reward you?
  5. Describe how the obstacles in your path today can spell destruction for the enemies of your soul.

Pastor forewarns us, "Next week's message will be even more difficult than we've see thus far, but the good news is that God is faithful, and He is trustworthy, and He is capable to do all the things that He said He can do in your life. He sees you. And He knows the circumstances that you're going through. And He has a great plan for you. He wants to prosper you. And I know it can seem frightening and hard. The grip that the enemy has had on you has been tight. But He is going to set us free." How does this prophecy work hope?

---

### **The Follow-up Application**

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Pray daily in the Spirit for wisdom and understanding along this path we've taken.
3. Ask the Son to set you free. Pray for a pillar of fire between you and your enemies. Do it daily. Review what Jesus says of freedom in John 8.

4. When fear starts to raise its head this week, say, “No,” and make a note of the day and time. Turn from that fear. Speak out loud both your hope and the basis thereof.

**Take the time to pray.**

---

**Scribe's Notes:**

1. **On the Tetragrammaton**—God’s ineffable name is written in four letters in Hebrew Old Testament (יהוה—yodh he waw he, read from right to left) 5410 times and its mystery, history and origins, its meaning and pronunciation have all become areas of study and debate that is summarized adequately in this Wikipedia article: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetragrammaton> The most accepted translation of His Name is “I am...”, but as Hebrew has no future tense, the most adequate translation is “I am [already] what I will be,” setting Himself apart from Adam’s offspring, made in His image, who are not yet what they will become. The French, when translating, have chosen to translate His name as *l’Éternel* (the Eternal One, the Ever Being) instead of substituting LORD, or transliterating YHWH to Yahweh or Jehovah. Jesus stands in contrast to us, because, as John the apostle pointed out, “Even as He is, so also are we in this world.” (1 John 4:17) He IS eternally ever and unchanging, and that idea is included in the Hebrew language. We are ever becoming as He already is. When Jesus told the Pharisees, “Before Abraham was, I AM,” His reference to the Name was unmistakable and deliberate and it moved the religious leaders to desire to stone Him.
2. **On praying in the Spirit**—The gifts of the Holy Spirit, called *charismata* or gifts of unearned, unmerited grace, are enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Paul lists these gifts as the way the Spirit of God manifests Himself in the body of Christ, not in any hierarchical order, but as the tools given to benefit, strengthen and edify the Body of Christ through faith and in the knowledge of God. The Corinthian Church was clearly familiar with each of them. According to Paul, the greatest of the gifts is that gift that best meets the need at any given time. For example, healing is a useless gift to a healthy body, but a word of knowledge, wisdom or prophecy, spoken in season, has greater value. Chapter thirteen, the “love chapter,” depicts love as the means by which and for which all the gifts are administered to the greatest effect. Without love, all knowledge and even miracles can have a deleterious impact. Chapter fourteen is where Paul illustrates these principles using two very familiar gifts: the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy. For those who are familiar with these two gifts, the chapter is open and easy to read. Unfortunately for us all, the history of the Church passed through a period where Her leadership forgot and neglected the gifts and these two in particular. Being ignorant of the gifts, they made that ignorance a requirement for piety and passed it on to their flock. Since they

had no experience, the lack of experience became the required norm, the orthodox view, and the increasingly historic basis and proof of their doctrine now cauterized into sacred tradition. Any manifestation of the gifts became a heresy to be silenced. Despite Paul's admonition to not forbid speaking in tongues, to greatly desire prophecy and not despise it, churches everywhere learned to forbid and despise. Still these chapters written to his friends in the church in Corinth, where he spent years teaching, stand in scripture, for all those who are willing to learn, as a lesson on how obey the Law of Jesus and to love the brethren by delivering in a timely manner those gifts which we were given each to edify and encourage each other. Paul speaks specifically of tongues as that unique gift designed to edify oneself, strengthening the faith of the speaker in his secret place of prayer, so he stands strong to edify the believers when they gather together. We pray with our spirit, and we pray with our understanding, two types of prayer. Pastor Mark illustrated both in his message.

3. **On the historic evidence of the path the Israelites took from Egypt**—I posted this YouTube video weeks ago, and I'm posting it again, because most of us have not been to Egypt, and we would not know that there are ancient pillars still set, one in Egypt, where the Israelites entered the paths of the sea, and the other in Saudi Arabia where they came out, though this one is now destroyed and only the base remains.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y-uiccliSY&t=16s>

---

**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 1 John 4:16-18
Tuesday: John 8:54-58
Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 5:4-7
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:8-10
Friday: Exodus 13:17-18
Saturday: Hebrews 4:14-16
Sunday: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.