

Russell Kelfer

**Moses:
Learning How to
Walk With God**

718-A

Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)



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Learning How to Walk With God

Lord,

How great Thou art. As we bow before You this morning, Father, suddenly, once again we are in awe at the magnitude of who You are; the Creator who spoke the worlds into being. Yet, You are the One who even today, intercedes for us at the throne. What a privilege, Father, to be able to call You Father. Bathed in the blood of Your precious Son, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving and into Your courts with joy.

Our prayer this morning, Father, is that, in spite of us, because of You, we might be taught truth through Your word. We pray, Father, that You would remove the teacher as the source, and that Your Holy Spirit would be the teacher; that everything that's said and everything that's done would be confirmed by truth. We pray that we might leave this place, Father, and not simply be entertained, but rather transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Now grant us, Father, a burden for those in our midst whose hearts are breaking, who are discouraged, lonely, depressed, or fearful. May Your Spirit wrap His arms about them, and may our hearts be burdened, one for another.

Grant us this week, Father, the freedom to share the good news that we, who are under the blood, that the death angel will pass over us; and that everyone we see and everyone we meet is either in the family or lost. May our hearts break, Father, for those around us this week, who have never come to know the reality of saving grace. May we have the freedom and may we have the boldness to allow Your Spirit, through us, to share, Jesus Christ is our Savior. Now, we give this time to You,

In His Precious Name,

Amen.

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Well, by now you know his name is Moses, and he is indeed, a living legend. What we are going to look at this morning, is probably one of those experiences that Moses had, that maybe you and I will never have that is quite this traumatic, tumultuous or incredible happen in our lives, but perhaps we will. I think if the Rapture should occur in our lifetime, then certainly, we shall, but this was an interesting experience to say the least. You remember the background and I'm going to cover it quickly. Don't try to follow it in your notes, because the first lesson I found went a little bit long, so we're going to try to condense it.

But, remember, Moses, had stood before Pharaoh along with Aaron. God gave Moses the words. He gave them to Aaron; Aaron became his public address system and he spoke. And Pharaoh had a singular answer. No matter what Moses said, Pharaoh said, "No." That's easy. The truth of the matter was that the question was "Let My People Go!" The answer was "No. They can't go."

And as you remember, God did what He often does when we are ministering to people and we share the word of God and they say, "No." Sometimes He allows the thermostat of the circumstances in their life to be moved about 5 degrees warmer...then warmer, and then warmer, until the broiler pops on. And sometimes still they don't respond. That was the truth in the life of Pharaoh.

We learned last week, that Moses was greatly esteemed among the Egyptians; that is, he was not only honored among God's people, but he had a reputation among the unbelievers that was so crystal clear. It wasn't because he was doing anything for them. The only thing he did for them was bring them disease, famine, frogs and the like, but, nonetheless, through it all, they esteemed him greatly.

Now, as we left our lesson last week, you remember, Moses is now facing Pharaoh along with Aaron and he's giving him the last option. God says, "Let My people go, or I will smite every firstborn dead. At My hand, you will drive My people out, God said, arms laden with gold and silver." But, you remember, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and so the Passover service was inaugurated.

The first Passover was the event and that's what we'll study about this morning. The subsequent Passovers have been the memorial to the event or the time of remembrance. That's what much of this lesson is about.

All of the Passovers, basically, were to tell us one thing; that a

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Lamb was coming who was slain, even from the foundation of the world who would take away the sins of the world. The message was, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you. You shall not taste the sting of death.”

That’s where the story takes up. Moses and Aaron are to lead God’s people out now, and it’s an exciting story. It’s filled with wonder and awe, but we are not going to only focus on the story, this morning. I want you to focus with me on the principles behind the story.

This will be a little different lesson. We are going to study the passage, but it’s more of a parenthesis dealing with application. Next Sunday, we will go on further with the story.

What Moses was going to do was learn to walk with God. This was the process. We’re going to look at it in four parts:

I- God’s Remembrances

II- God’s Promises

III- God’s Ways

IV- God’s Leading

Now the story opens like this. The children of Israel are about to be set free. God is about to do it all. He does all the delivering. All the children of Israel had to do, and all we have to do is come to God on one condition—by way of the blood. But that wasn’t the end of their testing, was it? It was going to be a beginning. They had been delivered from the enemy’s ownership but now they must learn how to live free of the enemy’s leadership. There’s a lot of difference. No longer would they be living under Satan’s authority, but now they would live under God’s leading and they had to learn to walk with God.

There are four basic principles in learning to walk with God that surface in this passage. I’m excited about it because I think each one of them on its own has a message for us. The truth of the matter and the issue of the matter is that it’s a lot to cover in one morning, so, hang on.

PRINCIPAL 1- LEARNING TO WALK IN THE REMEMBRANCES OF GOD

Now, let me ask a question. How good is your memory? How many of you remember the question? How many of you remember last Sunday’s sermon? Last Sunday’s Sunday School? What

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happened yesterday? What's your name? You see, the problem is, this principle surfaces over and over in Scripture and the principle is, everything that ever happens to you, happens for a reason and it has spiritual significance. Everything! Every event, every person that comes into your life. God's primary objective is that you profit from the experience and learn through it so you won't have to learn that lesson again. Then you can move on to the next lesson.

Isn't that the way it works at school supposedly? You school teachers are saying, no, but that's the way its supposed to work. Now what Satan's objective? He wants to destroy the seed, dull the senses, erase the remembrance. He wants you to have to go back and retrace the same territory over and over again. He wants you to have to hear the same messages, read the same passages, scratch your head again and say, "Wow, I never heard...oh yeah, I did hear that once before, didn't I."

God in heaven must be saying, "Just imagine where you could be spiritually if you just got on with it the last time you heard it? Why didn't you do it then? We could go on to something deeper and richer," God is saying. But you can't do that until you learn the simple truths experientially.

Now, throughout Scripture, we are going to find a pattern. We are going to see the pattern in the Old Testament. Everytime, virtually, that God did something fantastic, or God did something meaningful in the life of the children of Israel, He told them to stop what they were doing. He said, "I want you to sit down for a minute and I want you to write down, or make some form of remembrance or build an altar; do something to remind you and your children, and your grandchildren when they ask you in time to come, what God did?" If you forget it, you'll have to go back through it again.

Now let's look at this incident. I love these passages. The incident begins in Exodus 12:14,

Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.

(Exodus 12:14 NAS)

God unveils the plans for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And then in verse 23, we pick it up again,

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and

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when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the doorposts, the LORD will [do what?] pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.

And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. [That's a long time.]

And it will come about when you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, that you shall observe this rite.

And it will come about when your children say to you ['Hey Dad, hey Mom], what does this mean to you?'

That you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshipped.

(Exodus 12:23-27 NAS)

So, God gives Moses careful instructions and then chapter 13, verse 6 goes on and says,

For seven days you shall eat of unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD.

And you shall tell your son on that day, saying [son], 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

And it shall serve as a sign [as a reminder] to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.

Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time year to year.

(Exodus 13:6,8-10 NAS)

And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.'" (Exodus 13:14 NAS)

Do you get the picture? Are you beginning to see the negative develop? God delivered His children and every instruction had profound significance. But, the truth of the matter is, God is trying to teach us a bigger picture of the significance to the Jew here. He is trying to tell us that His children have the responsibility to build remembrances into their lives; otherwise, you'll be 40, 50, 60, 70 years old and He'll be teaching you the same lessons. You'll still be in the first grade. Now, God says, "I've got a diploma waiting for you. I want you to go on to college. That's ultimately

what it's all about.

Now I'm going to give you some illustrations very quickly. The first is:

Personal Remembrances

- a) Learning to remember your salvation.
- b) Learning to remember key events and people that God put into your life.
- c) Learning to remember and focus on answered prayer.
- d) (This is the hard one.) Remembering lessons, you already learned the hard way.

a) Learning to remember your salvation. Now, how many of you here would questions this statement? I want to see if you're still with me. Tell me if this is true or false. The most important single event that has ever taken place in your life, was when you found Christ as your personal Savior. True or false? How many think it's true? Okay. You are awake. Okay, that's great.

If that's true, nothing else has ever happened that will even be a close second. Now you think about it. On that day your sins were forgiven. On that day your life was given meaning. On that day, you were promised eternal life. On that day, the Spirit of God came and took up residence within you. On that day you were given a personal inheritance, an eternal reservation in heaven. You were given a personal intecessor in heaven, the Lord Jesus Himself. You were guaranteed new life, eternal life, abundant life. It all happened at one time.

Now, I know you have that in your own heart. I know you feel that way. But let me ask you a question, what do you have in your home to remember it by? What do you have in your house so that your children in time to come or your grandchildren or your great grandchildren might come to you and say, "What is this?" And, you might be able to say to them, "On December 12, 1957, the Lord, Jesus Christ came into my life and changed me." Now in the illustration here, it's a simple birth certificate and you can have a birth certificate for every member of your family who has come to Christ. It doesn't have to be fancy; a birth certificate that just says, on this day, Christ came into my life. And you have two birthdays. You have the one you've forgotten about and don't want to think about anymore and you've got the one that you want to think about through all of eternity.

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A second thing, you can make is a plaque or a stitchery and you can just have a verse of scripture and a date. It may not mean anything to anyone else, but it will mean a lot to, you and when your children or your grandchildren in time to come, say, “What does that mean?” You can say to them...and so it goes.

Maybe write a letter to God that expresses the joy of your salvation and what happened when Christ came into your life. It isn't what you do, it's that you do something. It might even be a picture of your baptism, if you have one, or a framed word of testimony. The most important thing is, that there be a reminder of some type that will remind your heart and cause you to shout for joy every time you walk down the hall and see that certificate. But more importantly, will cause other people to say, “What meaneth this?” And you can say, “It meaneth thus.”, and so it be.

b) Remembrance of key events and people- I don't know about you, but I can think of eight people in my life and eight events in my life that have totally changed my life. Now, there have been a lot of things. But there have been eight circumstances or times in my life that if I were to plot out my life spiritually, those things were turning points spiritually. And they were totally removed from one another, both in terms of types of situations and in terms of time.

But, if I were to plot that out, I could see now, how God, in eternity past, was planning something in my life. He brought this person, this circumstance, this situation into my life, years apart, and now I look back and see the pattern. But then, I didn't understand it.

And so I'm suggesting that maybe some of you, at least, make a map with the key events in your life—the people who have touched your heart, the circumstances that have caused you to be aware of God's presence, and the issues in your life that have caused you to have to depend upon who He is. This is an oversimplified one, but you can get the idea. And you put a verse of scripture with each of those things. One may be the time of your conversion (II Corinthians 5:17). One may be the time of your marriage (Genesis 2:18), or something else. One may be the time that God brought the first child into your life and that was the time your whole life was turned around (Psalm 127:3), and so on.

Maybe John 15:16, the time God opened up a ministry into

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your life. Maybe it was James 1, 2 and 3, a time when a serious problem came into your life and you couldn't deal with it, and you had to trust the Lord.

Maybe it was a retreat you went to or a seminar. Sometime when God got your attention and said, "Listen, I want your whole life", and you've never been the same since. How often do you stop and thank God for those things? Probably, if you're like me, you forget. Yet, God wants you to have just enough remembrances, not to live on the remembrances, but to cause them to trigger in your mind, glory to God.

So, think about it. You may even want to finish the chart and before it's finished and put Hebrews 9:27, "For it is appointed once for man to die and after that the judgement." But, underneath it, in parenthesis, put 1 Thessalonians 4:16, because it's possible that the Lord of heaven will descend with a shout, and if that happens, that will be even better. But either way, heaven is where it's going to be and you need to remember that.

c) Remembrance of answered prayer- We touched on this a year or so ago in a study on prayer. It's probably the most important issue that any of us can do practically speaking where prayer is concerned, and that is to keep a prayer list and to keep it in such a format, that we keep a record of the things we asked God for and the things He did. Because otherwise, we lose faith because we forget that God has been providing all along. And, instead of a life of continual praise from answered prayer, we listen to the voice of the stranger. We say, "Well, I asked God for this about an hour ago and nothing has happened yet."

The truth of the matter, Beloved, is God wants us to remember. Not just the big things. The little things, when the phone rang and you knew it had to be God, or you went to buy something and God provided it in such a way that only He could be glorified. Or, there was a relationship that needed to be healed and God brought about something that only He could do. Little things in your job. Little things in your family. Little things that maybe someone else wouldn't understand, but you know that this was a time God intervened in your life. Write it down.

The last thing, and this is probably the toughest one of all.

d) Remembrances of lessons learned- I don't know how many of you keep a list of the things God has taught you so that you won't have to learn them again. But I think most of us, for the

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most part, are still in Kindergarten where some of these things are concerned. And God keeps saying, “Wait a minute. I think we’ve been through that.” And you say, “Yeah, Lord, I think we did, but, you know, when you get old, you forget those things.”

I think what the Lord is saying to you is, “Wait a minute. Don’t you remember when you had that financial crisis and you got counseling and you read the word, and I brought you through it.” Or the time when you had that personal crisis, or the time when you struggled with that relationship and I gave you peace, victory and joy?” Write it down. Otherwise, you’re going to have to go through the same thing again.

I think about the life of the church. I think this church in particular. I can think of about four times in the last 20 years when God has done some things in this church, that were so supernaturally incredible that the people all fell before their faces before God and said, “Only You could do this.” And I bet a lot of you coming in to this church from the outside have no idea of the wonderful things God has done in the past. Not to glory in them, and not to glory in the church, but to glory in Him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think.

So, maybe we need to write those things down and create a remembrance book. I don’t know. But, each of us, at least for our own lives, needs to do that. Well those are private remembrances.

Public Remembrances

We also have some public remembrances. Only two, but you know these two are so crucial. The first one is a once for all testimony. We call it Baptism. The second one is a continual reminder or memorial, and we call that the Lord’s Supper. Baptism, if you remember is supposed to take place after conversion and then, only once.

Now, I don’t understand it, but a lot of people will say to me, “Well, I’m a Christian, but I’ve never been baptized.” Or, “I was baptized before I became a Christian in this church, or in that situation, but I don’t need to do that.” And all I can say to you, Beloved, is “Why?” If God were to send you to China, you would say “Yes, Lord. Thank you.” And all He is asking you to do is go as far as the baptistry. You say, “I don’t have to be baptized to be a Christian.” Absolutely not. You just have to be baptized to be an obedient Christian, because Jesus said to do it.

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So, if you're a Christian and you've not yet shared your testimony through baptism, make plans today before the enemy gets in and steals the seed and just say, "Yes, I'll do that.", and do it!

The second reminder is the Lord's Supper. It's going to be celebrated in our church today. It's important that we understand that it's not just the celebration of it, but it's the attitude with which we approach the celebration of it that's so crucial. Now, how often are we supposed to do it? How long are we supposed to do it? Why are we supposed to do it?

Scripture gives you all the answers. "This do in remembrance of Me." That's the reason we do it. How long? "Until He comes again." Why? "So that as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you remember His death until He comes."

So, those are the two public memorials. We've looked at private remembrances and public remembrances. Now, we will go to issue two in walking with God, and that's learning to walk by the promises.

PRINCIPLE 2- LEARNING TO WALK IN GOD'S PROMISES

How many of you have a list of Bible promises that you've memorized, meditated on, and you keep before you at all times—on your dashboard, in your car, on your refrigerator, in your pocket? Okay, we'll go on.

Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of cattle.

It's just what He said He was going to do, isn't it?

And Pharaoh arose in the night, [And he said "Uh, oh." That's in the original.] he and all of his servants and all of the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.

Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said."

(Exodus 12:29-31 NAS)

Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron on his hotline and he said "Get up, I know it's the middle of the night. But, come here. You can go now."

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Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.

And it came about at the end of four hundred and thirty years, *to the very day*, [the way God had said] that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

(Exodus 12:40,41 NAS)

Now, there's a lot of things significant about that. Number one is, that it was to the very day. Number two is, as we mentioned last week, not a single Israeli child was touched and not a single Egyptian first-born was missed. But, probably the most important facet out of this passage is, that it all happened exactly the way God said it would.

It happened to the day He said it would. It happened to the persons He said it would, and it happened for the purpose He said it would. It always does. There have not failed, what? One word of His good promises. All have come to pass.

He said Messiah would come. He came exactly the time God said that He would come, in exactly the way He said he would. He died exactly the way God said He would. He's coming again, incidentally, exactly the way God said He would because He always keeps His word. You can bank on it.

Numbers 23:19-Memory verse,

Hath He said and shall He not do it, Hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?
(Numbers 23:19)

The children of Israel had a long, hard road ahead of them. At the end of the road was a land filled with milk and honey. But it wasn't a figment of man's imagination. It wasn't something Moses dreamed up. It was something God told Moses to tell them. "This is where you're headed. This is what you'll find if you obey." They didn't, and a whole generation missed it, but it was their fault, not God's. I think you and I could learn something this morning that we ought to already know, and that is, that the word of God, is the word of God, is the word of God. If God promised it, it will come to pass.

Now, I think everyone ought to have a promise book. As you go through life, as you go through church, as you go through Sunday school, as you go through your personal time, you make 3 by 5 cards or you make sheets of paper. When you come across a promise that applies to you that isn't taken out of context, but it's a real promise to God's children, either conditional or

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unconditional, you write it down, put it in your promise book and you memorize it.

I'll give you a few suggestions, because some of us have so many problems trying to trust God in situations where there shouldn't be a problem, because we already know what God wants to do.

1) Hebrews 13:5-6- when you're afraid. (We're going to talk about this next week. That's the subject of next week's lesson.)

...for He hath said, I will never leave you nor forsake you,

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

The problem was fear. Fear of what men could do. Fear of what the world could do, and the solution was just believe God. You say "But, I'm still afraid." The problem is not with God. You see, God has not given us a spirit of fear. God keeps His word. And the way to conquer fear is not to worry about it. The way to conquer fear, Beloved, is to claim the word of God.

Now, I want to remind you every promise in Scripture carries with it a reflection of some attribute of God's. The promises are God's nature revealing His will to you. So, in the case of the promise we just read, I will never leave you or forsake you, it's the Omnipresence of God that makes that possible. You got it?

2) James 1:5-6- How many of you think there are times when you just don't have the right answers? If any of you happen to fit into that category it says:

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that gives to all men liberally, and without reproach provided he asks in faith believing. (paraphrase)

If any of you ever lack what? Wisdom. Here's what you do. You ask God and He'll give it to you liberally and He will never scold you for asking provided you ask in faith, believing.

So, if you're in a situation day after day where you need wisdom in a decision or discernment in dealing with people, and you don't have it, what do you do? Well, you ask God for faith, and as He gives you faith, you take that faith, you believe His word and you ask Him for it. You say, "Lord, you give me the faith, and I'm going to, by faith, as you to give me wisdom. I don't understand it, but I'm going to ask you to give it to me.

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Will He do it or not? How do you know? He said He would. That's all that matters.

3) 1 Peter 1:3-5- You're struggling over questioning your salvation. You say, "I don't feel saved today. I felt saved Tuesday.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, [I love the way God emphasizes things] and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

Your salvation is locked up in a vault in heaven with your name on it and God is standing outside the door, guarding the door. Do you think it's safe?

4) Matthew 25:21,

He who is faithful in small things, I will make him ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord.

(paraphrase)

You want the joy of the Lord? You want to be used of God? Then go back and do the things you didn't finish. The itty, bitty things and God promised you, He'll make you ruler over many things.

5) James 1:2-4,

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (NAS)

Beloved, count it all joy when the sky falls in. Falling skies produce character. Character produces Godliness. That's what it actually says. You say, "But, the sky is falling and I don't feel anything, except knots on my head." That's okay, Beloved, you claim the word of God. You don't have to feel it. You don't have to see it. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

6) Isaiah 55:10a, 11,

Isaiah 55:10 is a good one. You say, I've been ministering to

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so and so all this time. I don't see any fruit. I've been ministering to my family and I'm not sure what's going on, but, Beloved, Isaiah 55:10-11 says,

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,...

So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. (NAS)

Just as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven, you can't see where it goes and what's going to happen. Let me tell you one thing. God says, "It's going to produce fruit. Food for the sower and bread for the eater, and so shall My word be. It will never, ever return void. Not ever".

Well you say, "But I can't see it." That's not the issue, Beloved, it's a promise you plant. Some other promises you can claim are,

7) I Thessalonians 4:16-17,

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (NAS)

You say, "That doesn't make sense to me. I'm not sure that I believe that. Beloved, God said it. That's all that matters.

8) Revelation 21:4- You may be here today and you may hurt everywhere a person can hurt and be in so much pain, you may be struggling and suffering, but the scripture says:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:...

There's not going to be anymore hospitals or ambulances or pharmacies and there aren't going to be any funeral homes. It says God will wipe away all tears from your eyes. There will be no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain, no more death. These things are vamoose they're gone, they're over. You say, "Well, how do I know?" God said it. God never breaks a promise.

II Peter 1:4,

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine

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nature, ...

You take the promises to God, you stand on them and He fills you and floods you with joy and peace. Remember the promises of God. Memorize them.

PRINCIPAL 3- LEARNING TO WALK IN THE WAYS OF GOD

Those of you here who have been around the Christian life for a while will understand this. The rest of you need to take it by faith; and that is, that God almost never takes the main road.

Exodus 13:17-18,

Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, ["No"] lest the people change their minds when they see war, and [they'll skedaddle back] they return to Egypt."

Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array [armed] from the land of Egypt. (NAS)

God would not take them the shorter way and He won't take you that way either. You see, the truth was, they were not spiritually ready. They were armed, but they were not spiritually ready for heavy warfare, so God took the long way around. But see, God knows something they don't know. He said, "They're not ready for frontline battle yet." And He said, "The first time my children see the enemy, they're going to turn around, make a u-turn and run back to where they came from. I can't go that way," He said. "I've got things to teach them."

So, God takes the less scenic, less direct roads to accomplish his task. Almost always there's a desert. Almost always there's a wilderness. Almost always, there's a Red Sea, that only the rod of God can cause you to cross. Almost always. And, we complain, don't we? "Lord, how come it's taking so long? And, God is saying, "We're going straight as an arrow, Beloved. Right to My heart."

We're covering a lot of ground, I realize but, the last principle is:

PRINCIPLE 4- GOD WANTS US TO LEARN TO WALK BY HIS LEADING

Someone came up to me after the first class and said, "If you just start there and spend the whole time on that, I think maybe

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we need that more than we need anything else. But, it's a tough issue.

Exodus 13:21-22,

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them by the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

He took not away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

That's the last word Moses wants to give us in this lesson. He's told us to remember the works of God. He's told us to remember the promises of God. He's told us to remember the ways of God, the longer route. Now he wants us to look at the leading of God. Beloved, everyone in this room has a need in this area.

It's a beautiful picture. It has to do with the leading of the Holy Spirit who is always there telling us when to move. It paints a beautiful picture of the Christian in the will of God.

Now, I'm going to ask you a question this morning. There isn't time to delve into it in its entirety, but how does God lead these children? Is it through visions in the night? Does He normally just open or close doors and you follow the open door? Does He lead through the peace, that still, small voice that says, "Yeah, do that?"

How does a Christian make Godly choices and how do you know when to move? I believe that message is hidden in this passage. It's the secret of the glory cloud. It's given to stabilize us in our walk. Listen, it is the leading of God that tells the believer when to move. But it is the word of God that tells the believer where to go. It is the two together that leads to maturity in the day-to-day experience.

The word of God delivered to Moses, told His children what to do, what route to take, what choices they had, and what would happen if they made the wrong choice. God told Him. It was in His word. But it was the leading of God, by the glory cloud, the exclamation mark, regulating the alarm clock of His will. He's saying, "Now, Moses. Go. Whoa, Whoa. Stop Moses, stop."

Numbers 9:15 says,

And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony:

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and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

And I love verse 16. It was always that way.

And when the cloud was taken up from tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode there the children of Israel pitched their tents.

I love verse 18.

At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. (Numbers 9:15-18)

What a memory verse!

So, God gave His instructions through Moses, but through the presence of His Shekinah Glory, He executed His timing. When God moved, they moved, but not until. I think the greatest problem we have as Christians in Christendom today is the problem discerning the will of God, and the greatest problem discerning the will of God for most of us is the confusion between the word of God and the leading of God through circumstances in peace and how they work together.

These are some statements that I've heard, and you've heard in the years I've been around.

"God led me to divorce my wife. We just didn't get along."

"God isn't leading me to support my children, somebody else will have to do it."

"God led me to take that job, even though it's a compromise."

"God led me to buy that even though I had to go into terrible debt."

"God led me to join in that partnership, even though my partner is not a Christian."

"God led me into that relationship and I had a peace about it, but now I'm confused."

Don't you see, Beloved?

"My boss wants me to do such and such, but I don't feel led to."

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Those are the kinds of statements we hear day after day. What's wrong with those statements? I mean, people are honestly seeking the will of God. Does God open doors that are not His will, or does He? What are the answers?

Very quickly. Answer number one is, peace as we call it can come from God, we know that from Scripture, but an artificial peace, a similar peace can come from Satan, too. Open doors can come from God, but if you read Matthew 4, Jesus in the wilderness, boy can the enemy open some doors. It's not always easy to know who did and who didn't.

That's why, when you are usually confronted with a decision, have you noticed, that you wait and you pray and a door opens and you say, "Thank you, Lord." And about that time another door opens, and you say, "Wait a minute, Lord. Why did you open two doors?" And He said, "Because I want to teach you to walk by faith and honor the word of God. Now you look at these two doors and figure out based on Scripture, which is the right one and they you walk through the right one and then you will have grown. Otherwise, I would be leading you like a puppy dog." Do you see the difference?

If the peace and circumstances vary from time to time, what's the absolute? What never changes? Three things that never change: the word of God, the word of God, and the word of God! It teaches you the laws of God, the principles of God, the ways of God, the purposes of God and the character of God. It tells you the will of God. The presence of God through the leading of the spirit confirms the word and reveals His timing.

Open doors, and that peace and the confirmation of counsel, the seals of the spirit confirm His timing, but it is the word that reveals His will. I have to tell you that God didn't lead that man to divorce his wife because they didn't get along. Matthew 19 says it. I have to tell you that God told him instead to love her as Christ loved the church and die for her. God never contradicts His word or He would be a liar.

God isn't leading that man not to support his children. No matter how he feels led, the Scripture says he is worse than an infidel if he doesn't support his children.

God didn't necessary lead you to buy that item. Maybe He did, maybe He didn't, but you say, "If He didn't and I felt so good about it, who did?" Guess.

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God didn't lead you into that partnership with an unbeliever. You say, "But the doors were open and I had a peace about it and I talked to three people and they told me to do it." Yes, but God told you to not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers for light has no fellowship with darkness. So, you already had your answer. Where do you think the peace came from? Who do you think opened the doors?

If you desire to know the will of God, you look in the word of God, and you'll know what to do, and until you know, you wait. You rest in the camp. That's the hard part, isn't it? Then when He moves, you move. And your footprints will quietly be in the middle of His. Isn't that the way you want your life to be lived?

What a God! What a story. The living legend of Moses. He led Moses. He led his people. And, through them, he taught us four key principles. He taught us how to walk in remembrance so we won't make the same mistakes over and over. He taught us how to walk in the promises so we have an unshakeable faith built on the word of God. He taught us how to travel the long road without complaining, because that's the way God takes. Lastly, how to walk in His will. At the commandment of the Lord we move. His word gives us His will and His presence confirms His timing.

Oh, Beloved, those are lessons we can learn from living legends like Moses. And with this, we close.

LEARNING HOW TO WALK FROM MOSES

Oh, from Moses, may we learn
From God's portrait book
How to walk the walk of faith
And take the road He took.

Surely, it was not alone
For that age of men
Is not Moses speaking still
To each of us again?

Showing us to ne'er forget
All the things God's done
Showing us remembrances
That cause us one by one,

Learning How to Walk With God

To look again, and praise Him
For all He's done thus far
To drive some stakes
And not repeat each error o'er and o'er.

And, oh, He wants us, too, to learn
By faith, that we must stand
Upon His perfect promises
And thus, possess the land.

To learn the truth forever
And thus, the joy to reap
That there has never ever been
A promise He won't keep.

Moses whispers yet again,
"God takes life's longer way
That you might learn to trust in Him,
That you might learn to pray."

And lastly, Moses says to us,
"See that cloud of glory?
Tucked within its context is
A deeper, richer story."

God is showing each of us
A truth we need to know
That only when the glory moves
Are we, then, free to go.

But tho' the glory tells us when
To move to life's new sod
The way we know just where to move
Is by the Word of God.

So, Moses says, "If in your walk
Your life these truths employ,
Yours will be the life of faith
And thus, a life of joy."

Our Father and our God,

*Thank you for the illustration of the living legend of Moses.
By his life, we've learned your ways. Now, Father, may we
walk in them.*

*In Jesus' Name,
Amen.*

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For Focus and Application

1- What visible, tangible remembrance of your salvation do you have? Why not make a “birth certificate” and put it on the wall as a testimony? If you do not know the exact date, choose the year, or use the first day of the year. It will let your children and your friends know that this day was the most important day of your life. It will also serve to remind you that everyone who enters your house is either saved or lost. No one is in between.

2- Make a chart like the one on page 6 of your lesson. Include the important people and events (spiritually) that have affected your life. Find verses of Scripture that relate to each event. Take a day of praise and thank God individually for each of those people and events.

3- Do you keep a log of your prayer requests? Do you ever take note of the answered prayers and use them as a praise list? Why not start today?

4- Consider starting a scrapbook of the lessons God has taught you through the Word and through experience. Make it alphabetical so you can easily add to it. Put the date by the principle. Agree to review it regularly so that God need not take you back through the wilderness again and again.

5- Do you have a promise book? Do you have a list of Scripture verses you have memorized that relate to God’s promises? Why not start today? Use the ones on pages 9 and 10 as a beginning.

6- Make a list of the ways of God. (Use the previous lesson on God’s ways as a starting point.) As you pray, thank God regularly that His ways are higher than ours. Then praise Him for one of those ways. As you do, His ways will become a part of your understanding, and you will begin to relate them to the events in your life. The things that would normally confuse you will become words of encouragement, instead.

7- Write a brief essay called “How God Leads His Children”. In it, explain the part His word plays. Explain why Satan’s designs to confuse us often work. Tell how you have missed His leading in the past. Find verses to substantiate the principles you share.

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(10.15.19.dvd)