

Tired of Being a Mule

by David Wilkerson

God's guidance is not just about getting us out of our present crisis, but about building our trust and confidence in Him and exalting Him by bringing down our enemies.

Duration: 57:58

Scripture: Psalm 32:8-9, Matthew 6:33

Topics: "Divine Guidance", "Holy Spirit"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the topic of divine guidance and the leading of the Holy Spirit. He emphasizes the importance of building our foundation on God's promise in Psalm 32:8, which states that God will instruct and teach us in the way we should go. The preacher encourages believers to keep moving forward, even in the face of fear and uncertainty, just as the Israelites did when they crossed the Red Sea. He highlights the outcome of following God's guidance, which includes witnessing His power over our enemies and experiencing His deliverance. The preacher concludes by emphasizing that God's guidance is not just about getting us out of our current situation, but also about building character and leading us to a settled place.

Transcript

Go to Psalms first, Psalms 32. Psalms 32. Psalms 32nd chapter.

We'll go to Exodus later. Psalms 32. Praise the Lord.

Now don't forget tonight it's six o'clock and then Tuesday night at seven o'clock. What a glorious meeting we're having on Tuesday night. It is family night.

It's just marvelous. Don't forget those services please. You know what the best thing about coming to Times Square Church is that when Jesus comes it doesn't stop.

We're going to keep right on going. We're going to we're going to know each other and enjoy each other all through eternity. I'd feel pretty bad if I only if the pastors, if we pastors got to love and know you only through time.

The joy of pastoring is we get to love you all through eternity and and share that great love. Hallelujah. Tired of being a mule.

Psalms 32 verse 8 and 9. I will instruct thee, verse 8, I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye. Be not as the horse, be not as the mule, which hath no understanding, whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come nigh unto thee.

And in the original it means because they won't come near to you, you have to get the bit and bridle, go chase them. They won't even come near you, you have to fight for them. Lord I pray for your blessing on the service this morning, or rather on the message this morning.

Lord it's been a hectic week, a funeral of grandma and so many things that our family and yet we sense your presence, your quickening power and we love you this morning more than we've ever loved you. Holy Spirit come upon me from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Let the word of the Lord come, quicken us O God.

Say something to our hearts this morning. We're hungry, we're ready to receive it Lord. We know that you gave it to us, you dropped it into our hearts.

Now bless this day, bless the service this morning, bless Pastor Phillips tonight and Brother Dawn on Tuesday and all the pastors of this church and the great work you're doing here in Times Square right in the middle of New York City. We thank you for it in Jesus name, Amen. If you're here for the first time there's a beautiful nursery right behind stage back in one of the rooms.

You can go to the lobby and the ushers will show you where to go. Thank you. Now in these two little verses that I've just read to you, God is giving us one of the greatest lessons on guidance in the scripture.

In fact most of what I know about divine guidance and leading the Holy Spirit has come from these two chapters. In verse 8 the Lord is really unburdening his heart to his children and he's giving us a promise that ought to be the foundation of all the guidance we have received from the Lord. We need to build on verse 8. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way in which thou shalt go.

Now look this way please. If you read the context of this, if you read the whole chapter, you'll find that this promise, this wonderful promise of being guided and led by the very eye of God, is promised to very special people. You'll find that these people have been a forgiven people whose sin is covered.

You'll find it in the preceding verses. A people in whom there is no deceit. A people who have the Lord's hand heavy upon them.

A godly people praying at a time that he may be heard. These are hidden and preserved from all their troubles according to scripture. These are people singing songs of deliverance.

Now here's my point. You can be all of that. You can have all these spiritual benefits and still be a mule when it comes to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit in his strange leadings.

You can be as stubborn as a mule and have no understanding whatsoever of the principles of guidance and the leadings of the Holy Spirit even though your righteous, no deceit in you, godly, and all of that. You can still be a mule about guidance and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Of Israel, God said, 40 years long was I grieved with this generation and I said it's a people that do err in their hearts.

They've not known my ways. Now stop and think of what God is saying here. He's saying after 40 years of these people being led and guided so tenderly, I led them.

I had a cloud by day, a fire by night, two silver trumpets, one of the godliest leaders of all times, and after years of detailed instruction, miraculous guiding, they didn't have the slightest idea of the way I work. They never did understand my principles of guidance. To them, guidance was just a series of unrelated blessings, open doors, deliverances from one crisis after another, all unrelated.

Every time they got in a mess, they say, Lord, one more time. That's all that guidance was to Israel. One more time, Lord, get me out of this.

That's where many of us are right now. Guidance is just another mess. Lord, get me out.

Now I'm tired of being a mule about some of these things of understanding how the Lord leads and the principles of divine guidance. I don't want the Lord to have to say to me after all these years, and I started preaching little sermonettes when I was about 12, 13, and really preaching when I was 17 years of age. And after all these years, you don't need to know how old I am right now.

But after all these years, I don't want it said of me, yes, David, you've got rid of your deceit, you're forgiven, I've laid my hand heavy upon you, you pray, and I've hid you from trouble, and I've delivered you in time of distress. Time and time again, I've led you in wonderful ways, but you've never learned my heart through it all. You've never had a settled faith.

I've done so many things, you've learned nothing from it. I don't want that said of me. The point of my message is this, the very terms to lead or to guide suggest the Lord's taking us somewhere.

It suggests that he has a goal in mind, that he's leading us to a place, and I want to tell you something, God doesn't lead you 40 years in circles. He doesn't lead you 40 years in circles. Every single leading of the children of Israel in the wilderness, every word of direction they received, every victory, every deliverance, was all related to a single divine, holy purpose of God to bring them to a certain place.

They were being brought into a place of trust. It was Canaan land. For us, it's a type of a place of settled rest.

From God's own mouth, we learn that Israel learned absolutely nothing from all their supernatural leadings. Nobody was led more supernaturally than Israel, and they learned absolutely nothing. The lessons were less, were wasted.

They ended up as a mule-headed children. They couldn't see beyond their present crisis. They did not build their faith on past deliverances.

All they wanted was a quick, easy way out of their present dilemma. They wanted out. That's all.

God said, I will guide thee with my eye. I'll guide you with my eye. Now, let me tell you something.

Our Lord is never surprised by the trouble that hits us. He's never troubled or blindsided by any crisis that comes into your life or mine. He knows the beginning from the end.

The scripture says, for the Lord's portion is his people, his inheritance. He found them in a desert land in a waste, holly wilderness, and he led them about. He instructed them.

He kept Jacob as the apple of his eye. And then God went on to describe himself like this, as an eagle stirreth up his own nest, and he's just cluttering or hanging over his young, spreading abroad his wings

over them, taking them, bearing them on his own wings, so he did lead Israel. And he led Israel as the apple of his eye.

Now, the apple of his eye is very, very, very simple. If you look into somebody's eye, please don't do it now, but if you look close into somebody's eye, you'll see a little you in it. There's a little you, and the apple means the little you.

There's a reflection of you. It's upside down, by the way. It's in the pupil of the eye.

You'll see yourself upside down. Now, I could call Bob over here right now, but make a... He wouldn't do it. He'd look so foolish.

But I'd look him right in the eye. I'd see a little David upside down. And what God is saying, I'll keep you as the apple of my eye.

You're always the image in my eye. Everything around you, everything you're doing, everything that happens, I see it. It's never out of my eye.

Now, brother, sister, that's the foundation of all confidence in the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit. You have got to believe that you're the apple of His eye. You've got to believe that even though God has thousands and millions of Christians, His children, all of them with crisis.

All of them with different problems. China, India, Africa, all over the United States. Right here in the church, look around you.

How many people have problems and crisis? God is saying, I want you to believe that you, yes, you are the apple of my eye. My eye is always on you. You are the little you.

You're the little one that's in my eye. You're always there. Glory be to God.

The Lord said, he that touches you touches the apple of my eye. And in the original Greek, in the Hebrew, you know, original Hebrew, you know what that means? He that touches you sticks his finger in my eye. You think for a minute God's going to let anybody stick his finger in his eye when it comes to you and your problem? Never.

The Lord wasn't surprised when you lost your job. He wasn't blindsided. He's not blindsided when you had a sudden illness that came upon you, that lump you found, that sickness.

We have a brother, Shukert, in our family of Times Square Church. He's a board member here of World Challenge and elder of this church. He's going to the hospital Monday.

I want you to pray for him. He, he, he, he's lost his equilibrium and, and they're, they're, they, they, they test for a tumor. And we pray right now, Lord Jesus, heal our dear brother.

And that, that the Lord will heal him and the test will come out right. But you see, the Lord's never blindsided. He's never caught unaware in any of these things.

The scripture said, behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. The scripture said his ears see every precious thing.

Hallelujah. Do you believe that you're the apple of his eye this morning? Do you believe that he sees everything from the beginning to the end? That what you're going through right now didn't surprise the Lord when it came. Everything that happens to us, he is not going to allow the enemy to ride over you.

Now, I can't explain how he does it. I can't explain how with all the millions of children on the face of this earth, that I'm the apple of his eye. That, that we have a God so great and so mighty that you're not to think of the whole world.

You're to think of him personally as you being the apple of his eye. Hallelujah. David said, keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings. Now, I just read you the scripture in Psalm 32, verse 9. Be not as the mule without understanding. In other words, don't make God be stern with you in this matter of guidance.

Now, you city people don't know much about mules. I'm a country boy. I remember the first time I took Nikki Cruz and Israel and two other gang members out in New York City.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, New York. Never been in the country. We were out past Allentown and all of a sudden I heard a scream in the back.

There was a bunch of cows in the field and somebody back said, look, I heard a buffalo. I want you to know a mule is a stubborn animal. And they're not a country boy that doesn't know what it is to get a bitten bridle, go out and chase that mule in the field because he only works so much that when he's tired of work, he sits.

You can build a fire under him and he'll still sit. And he sees you coming and he'll run and you've got to get that bitten bridle and get him and drag him to do his work. Be not as the mule without understanding.

He said, I want to guide you not as a mule, but I want to guide you just with the wink of my eye. And the pictures King David sitting in his royal chamber and all of his counselors and his captains are gathered around him and they know him. They studied him and they delight in doing his will.

And they're talking the business of the kingdom and and they're discussing something. And over this side is is one of his right hand men so close to him and David is a nod and that man's out of the room. He knows or a wink and he knows he reads.

He knows exactly what King David is saying. He's not a mule. He doesn't have to be chased.

He's led by the king's eye. He's so intimate. He's so close.

He's been in his presence. Now, I want you to know that there are people that walk with God like that. They seek his face.

They just know that knob. They know that wink. God said, I'll guide you with my eye.

You don't have to be chased down with bitten bridle because they spend time in his presence and he would rather lead us with his eye than with the bitten bridle. Now, in all guidance, the Lord has two eternal purposes in view. First of all, it's to gain the trust and confidence of his children.

But you see, that's where most of us stop. We've never actually and I don't think I've truly seen the second eternal purpose in divine guidance. And that's to that God be exalted and honored before the wicked, that he sets up a stage in our crisis, a scenario by which he can be glorified.

Now, explain that to you in the course of my message this morning. Every leading in my life is meant to accomplish these two purposes. Now, folks, I want to share something.

I believe the Holy Spirit gave me. I didn't get it from a book. I got it on my knees.

I don't think it's some great revelation, but it's a simple revelation that is so helped me in this matter of guidance. Now, we treat the Lord so disrespectfully. It's terrible the way we treat our God.

When we pray for guidance and we pray for leading in our life, it's mostly with one purpose in mind. God, get me out. Come on now.

Lord, just one more time, deliver me. God, if I ever needed a miracle, I need it now. Get me out of this, Lord, I'll never doubt you again.

We are absolutely consumed by our problem and our crisis. We're consumed by it. We're convinced either that the devil is after us, there's sin in our life, and God's allowed the devil to come and try to purify us.

And occasionally that's the case. There are times that God is testing our confidence and our faith in Him. But how many that are hearing me right now, listen closely, how many of you can look your problem right in the face, look at your need of guidance, and believe that the Lord is interested in more than just getting you out of the mess? That God's trying to take you somewhere.

That God's trying to build something in you of character. He's trying to bring you to a settled place. Now, what good would it be for one of the children of Israel that had been 40 years in the desert to sit you down and begin to tell you about all the miracles? They'd tell you all about the 10 great miracles they saw in Egypt, tell you about how the Red Sea opened up, tell you about the voice they heard, the thundering voice at Sinai, tell you how water came out of the rock.

Every one of those Israelites could have written a miracle book on divine guidance. They could have told you God did this, God did that. What good would it have been to sit down and listen to all that? It did them no good.

It was totally wasted. It didn't reach the ultimate goal. It didn't get them into a settled place.

They didn't learn anything from it, because to their dying day, they were still doubting Him in their next crisis. What good it would do me to stand up here this morning and spend two or three hours telling you all the stories and miracles of how God saved me from one financial mess after another? And He has. There are times I thought I was going down, our ministry was going down.

There were times I thought, God, there's no way out. I've been at that Red Sea. I've seen God open doors.

I've seen so many miracles. I honestly could write a book as thick as this about the miracles I've seen God perform physically, spiritually, financially. But what good would it be for me to stand here and tell you all of that if in my very next crisis I doubted God and said, Lord, where are you? If I hadn't learned anything from it, if I'd not even entered into the promised land, that rest, that settled confidence in God that He's able to see me through.

Listen, I want you to know that God's not interested in formulas. All these how-to books, how to know the mind of God, how to know the will of God, burn them. Prop up your furniture with them.

Do anything. See, God's not interested in you picking up a formula. He's interested, His ultimate purpose, God's divine ultimate purpose is that you and I build on every one of these experiences and come to the place where you say, now this is not going to be, alright, God will get me out of this, I'm sure.

David could say, He got me away from the lion, He got me away from this bear, this giant's nothing. But that wasn't going to be the only thing. He wasn't going to stand in front of a zig-zag.

His whole family gone, everything burned, they're about to stone him. And you know why he encouraged himself? He said there was a lion, there was a bear, there was a giant. He had a settled place.

He'd come in to a place in God of confidence. He'd build on every one of those experiences. I'm not interested in God just getting me out of my present crisis.

You can testify about it, I'll tell you there's not a person here that hasn't been delivered from one mess after another, and yet you're in another and you say, oh God, where are you, where are you, where are you God? You haven't learned anything yet. Oh hallelujah, boy I feel this so strong in my heart. If I face a present trial and I'm flustered and worried and I'm wondering if He's going to do it once more, I've learned absolutely nothing about His faithfulness.

All right, now let me talk to you about the second purpose of His guidance. The second purpose is really the most powerful purpose and we have totally missed it. I'm telling you now, I'm going to look you right in the eye and tell you, you and I have missed this.

We've missed it badly because we don't understand why the devil is at our trail. We don't understand why the enemy is so involved in our present crisis. And I'll tell you, you don't have to look too far to find the devil at work in what you're going through right now.

How many know where the devil is? He's right at your tail. He's right at your footsteps. He's all around you.

He's got you surrounded. You're at the Dead Sea probably. But we're going to look at this.

Hallelujah. Now see, the second purpose of His leading is to provide a stage to the world for God to bring down our enemies. He's providing a stage.

Your crisis, what you're going through right now, God is setting up a scenario. It's a stage upon which God is going to work against your enemies. He's going to work against the devil and you're going to be caught right in the middle.

Luther called it the divine mousetrap. God wants more out of guidance than just your faith and confidence. Now listen closely, please.

In the process of bringing you into a settled faith in Him, He's setting up a situation where your enemy is going to be dealt with fatally. And finally, God wants you in. That's right.

He wants to lead you into the promised land, but He wants you in, but He wants the devil out. There's two purposes. He wants you to get into the promised land, but He wants the devil out of your experience, out of your life, out of your divine purposes.

God wants, in other words, your trial, God's not just dealing with you, He's dealing with the enemy, in other words. Can I run that by you again? What you're going through right now, it's not God just dealing with you, He's dealing with the devil. And boy, is He dealing with the devil.

I want the Holy Spirit to show you something this morning, that if you will take it, if you'll catch it, you'll never again fear the presence or the activity of Satan in your life or your trials. You'll never fear it again. In fact, you'll understand that God's drawing him into it.

Uh-oh. Brother Wilkinson just flipped. I said, He's drawing him in to your crisis.

He's drawing the devil into your crisis. No, I didn't flip, and I got a lot of sleep last night. I want you to go to Exodus 14, I want to show it to you.

I want to show you that the devil's on your heel because the Lord's leading him into a trap. If you'll take this to your heart, you'll never fear again. You'll never again fear the devil as long as you live.

All right, Exodus 14 chapter, I'm going to start the first verse. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-Ha-Kre-Hoth, between Migdol and the sea, and against Baal-Zivon. Now look at this, please.

Over against Baal-Zivon, before it ye shall encamp by the sea. Now look this way, please. This is some of the most direct guidance in the Bible.

God said to Moses, I want you to go down. He named these areas, and I want you to camp right in front of the Red Sea. You know, he backed them up right against the Red Sea.

He put them back up against the Red Sea. But not only that, he told Moses what he was going to do. He said, I'm going to make Pharaoh mad, and I'm going to bring him down on you and all of Israel.

I'm going to bring him down. Look at for Pharaoh, verse 3. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness has shut them in. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them, and I will be honored upon Pharaoh and upon all his hosts, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord, and they did so.

All right, follow me very closely in this, if you will, please, because there's a powerful truth. He shall follow after you. Who is Pharaoh? Pharaoh represents the devil and every demon power in hell.

And what's it say, verse 4? He shall follow after you. Now look at me, please. How would you like to have such guidance? The Lord comes to you and says, look, I'm going to put you in a crisis, and I'm going to put your back up against the wall.

I'm going to put you in a place that only a miracle can get you out. And then I'm going to bring the devil chasing from this side. I'm going to bring the devil in.

He's going to come at you with all of his power and all of his force. The devil's coming this way, and the sea is this way, and you can't get out outside of the miracle. Is he there? Is that where he is? Didn't God tell that whole thing to Moses? Moses knew it all.

Moses had it foretold to him. Boy, he said, I'm going to bring you forth. The enemy is going to bear down yours if he's about to wipe you out.

But it's not going to be your battle. I'm going to be honored through what I do to the enemy so that everybody's going to know that I am the Lord. Now please try to understand what's happening here.

God causes the enemy to join the conflict. God permits the devil to get very close. Too close for comfort.

Now I want to show you something. Israel needs more than just a way out. More than just a crisis.

See, God's not just trying to draw faith. He's not trying to... Please listen to this now. Hear it.

He's not trying to get faith out of these people right now. He knows they're stubborn. Moses said, as long as I've known you've been stubborn stiff-necked people.

But you see, God's trying to do something more than that. God's out for revenge. God's out to deal with the Egyptians and Pharaoh.

And the children of Israel are in a crisis because he wants to deal with their enemy. You didn't know it, did you, that the crisis that you're in and the devil that's come into you has been drawn into a trap because God wants to deal with your enemies. This is the end of side one.

You may now turn the tape over to side two. Now, watch it very closely, please. See, it'd be very easy for God to just pick them up and transport them over.

God did that, didn't he, to Philip? Didn't he in the New Testament pick him up and carry him away? He could have picked up two or three million and propped them over on the other side. Wouldn't that have been a greater miracle? How many believe God has power to do that? But you see, that wouldn't accomplish God's eternal purpose here. God was not just wanting them to go over there and say, Oh, I believe in God.

Wonderful. Isn't God great? Now we'll never doubt him again. Look how he's brought them up because they doubted him just a few days later at the waters of Merah.

See, God was after more than that. He was after their enemies. Oh, boy, when I saw this, it almost blew a Holy Ghost fuse.

In modern language, God's creating a media event. This is a media event. God's setting up something.

Oh, hallelujah. Well, this is exciting to me. This is God's battle with the devil and God's people are right in the middle of it.

And they're scared to death. God wants to accomplish two things. He seeks to establish a people who are going to walk in holy fear, unmovable.

But more than that, he desires not just to bring them out of a hard place. He desires to show them his power over their enemies. Hallelujah.

What are you going through right now? I'll tell you, if I had two microphones up here, we'd be here all day. You came up here and told us what you're going through. You're back up against a hopeless wall, the enemy roaring down on you.

And you hear their frightening hoof beats of demonic powers. Your mind conjures up all kinds of dreadful things that are going to happen to you. Especially if you've lost your job, how are you going to pay your

bills? What are we going to do about this? What are we going to do about that? But believe it or not, folks, if you really love the Lord with all your heart, you're not going down.

You're not going down. But the enemy is. That stuff that looks so dark around you is designed for the enemy, not for you.

Your enemy is going to be buried in the process of your deliverance. Pharaoh and his army pursued after them and overtook them in camp by the sea. Verse 10, And Pharaoh drew near, and when Israel saw them, behold, the Egyptians marched after them.

And they were sore afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. So would you. You look at your kids, you look around you, and look at that army buried down on you.

You look this way, and there's the sea. And they're camped. And if you know what those words mean, they mean mountains.

God really trapped them. They're in the middle of two mountains. They can't run that way.

And there's a valley, and the valley's been filled with the army of Pharaoh and his chariots. And there's no place to go. There's no place to run.

And that's where many of you are today, right now. He pursued after them and drew very near. Sometimes the enemy comes real near.

But you see, Israel reacted just like we do, like dumb mules. They had already witnessed ten great miracles of deliverance in Egypt. They'd seen how God delivered them ten great plagues, and none of it came near.

The Bible said the children of Israel went out of Egypt with a high hand. What it means, they went out with their heads held high. They went out boldly.

They went out with what they thought was confidence in God. They went out with a high hand. But now the enemy's coming at you.

And you know what their language is? Why did you bring us out here to die? We knew it all along. We were better off back in our old ways. What kind of deliverance is this? It's hopeless.

They turned to Moses and said, We told you this would happen. We knew it was going to happen. And you know, there's some of you right now, you say, Well, back when I was serving the devil, it wasn't as bad as this.

Man, I come to the Lord, everything's supposed to be happening. God's supposed to be answering prayer. Look at the mess I'm in! And that's what they said.

You know, and they were afraid. They were frightened. And there's a natural fear.

I understand that. God understood that. But I'm talking to some of you this morning that are under deep despair.

You really are. You're going through it. You're going through it hard.

Nobody around you understands it. And there's a despair because you see the enemy bearing down on you. And you look ahead of you, and there seems to be absolutely no way out of the present situation that you're in.

And there's something in your heart sometimes that says, God, how is it that I can serve you? I love you, and you know I love you. And I've walked with you, and you brought me out of the world. I forsook the world.

Why am I in this mess? Why am I in trouble? Why is this thing still lingering in my heart and in my life? God didn't chastise these people. God didn't come down on them with His wrath. In fact, He brought a message of hope, and that's the mercy of God.

In this despair, and in their fright, they were frightened, absolutely frightened. And in their despair, this message came. Fear not.

Stand still. And see the salvation of the Lord. The enemy that you see today, you will see him again no more forever.

Keep moving on. Go forward. The Lord shall fight for you, and you shall keep silent.

In other words, you're not alone. God said, I'm fighting for you. You can't see your way out, and I'm not going to tell you the way out.

I'm only going to tell you to keep moving on. That's all. The only message you're ever going to hear is, keep moving on.

Keep moving on. Don't give up. These children of Israel could have said, no, it's hopeless, we're going to die anyhow.

They could have just sat down, and I tell you, the enemy would have come in and rolled over them. Their children would have been stripped from their arms, swords thrust through them. Their necks and heads would have been cut off.

They would have been destroyed, and you can see that shipwreck all over America and around the world today of people who sat down on God. They just sat down and said, it's hopeless. The enemy's coming in.

There's no way out. I quit. I give up.

And in prayer this morning, the Lord made this clear, and last night especially, that there were some of you on the brink of giving up, and my message to you tonight this morning is, don't give up. Keep moving on. God's going to show you a way through.

God says, I'm going to fight this battle for you. Now, David, by the way, the Hebrew writer said that these people had a measure of faith, even though they were scared. Hebrews 11, 29 says, By faith they passed through the Red Sea, as by dry ground, which the Egyptians, trying to do, were drowned.

Now, David in Psalm 77 described that experience, and according to David in Psalm 77, it thundered all night, and it says, The ground shook, and the wind blew, and there were lightnings that lighted the sky. Can you imagine that scene? The cloud is behind them, confusing the Egyptians, but here in front of them, lightnings are flashing one after another, thunderings, the ground is shaking, the wind is blowing, and it's

blowing, according to Jewish tradition. Now, remember, there are 2 to 3 million Jews to cross that sea, and that's going to take a time.

Jewish traditions say it could have been 100 miles long. I don't know how long it was, but that sea just opened up, and the wind made it dry, and I'll tell you what, it took a measure of faith in the midst of all, they must have gone helter-skelter, I don't know, but there was some order, because the priest went first with the ark, remember, and they passed over, and according to the Hebrew writer, their fear was mixed with faith, and they did move on, even though they looked both sides, that those walls could come tumbling down on them, they kept going on, scared. You may be scared.

I can't take that out of you this morning. Not much anybody can do it, not many counselors or pastors that can remove that natural fear that's in you, but I'll tell you what, if you'll just keep moving on, say, God, somehow, I'm going on, I'm going on. They went on, they passed on.

And that's what the scripture said. God said, Moses, why are you crying? Tell the people to move forward. Tell them to go on.

Folks, sometimes that's all you can do, just keep going on. You're scared, yes. You're scared, there's lightning, thunder, everything is shaking under you.

Keep moving. Don't lay down and quit, and don't say, no, God, I've tried, it doesn't work. No, you just keep moving right on.

Hallelujah. Glory be to God. Say to the children of Israel that they shall go forward.

You'll see that there in verse 15. Well, what's the outcome of this kind of leading? What was the outcome? Let me tell you what the outcome was. Now listen closely.

Give me a good eye, look this way. Your good ear. You know what they got when they stood on the other side? They got a vision of God's power over all the enemies that had come against them.

They saw those chariot wheels coming off. They saw those soldiers with their big lead uniforms drowning, screaming, yelling. The next day, they looked out over those waters that were running.

The sun was probably shining. Chariot wheels laying everywhere. Swords laying everywhere.

Helmets laying everywhere. Dead soldiers laying everywhere. Somewhere down along the bottom was Pharaoh.

And they looked out and all their enemies were gone. And look at the last verse, verse 31. Let's start at verse 30.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians. And Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians.

And the people feared the Lord and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. Now people, listen please. This is what God's saying to me.

Yes, I want your faith. I want your confidence. But here's the way I want you to direct it.

I want you to believe that there's no weapon formed against you that will ever prosper. I want you to know that the devil is defeated. Absolutely defeated.

I want you to know. I want you to build your faith on this right now that no matter what you're going through, the devil is not going to bring you down. I have all power and authority over your enemies.

Who are the enemies that face against you? You might be in a court trial. You might be in something else. Those enemies are no match to your God.

And by the way, beloved, we have better promises than the Israelites have. Colossians 2.15, speaking of Christ and His victory at the cross, and having spoiled principalities and powers and made a show of them openly, He triumphed over them in it. He triumphed over all the powers of the devil.

The Bible says, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness. He's delivered us from the power of darkness. Folks, close your Bibles.

I honestly don't know. I can't understand the strange and mysterious leadings and the workings of the Holy Spirit. But I do know that God in His divine planning arranged this service this morning as it is.

Brought this message. And I'm confident I stand here in divine order this morning having preached His ordained message. I didn't know who was going to be here.

And I don't know what you're going through. But I know as sure as I know His name. He's trying to encourage you.

He's trying to let you know that there is nothing that you're going through right now that He can't deliver you from. Absolutely nothing. He can provide a job for you when no one else is getting a job.

If there were no jobs anywhere, He'll get you a job. And I don't care what sickness is. He'll make your bed in your sickness.

I saw my 95-year-old mother-in-law, Gwen's mother. I saw how God works in covenant. Bob preaches covenant.

And I saw it proven. Years ago, the Lord made me a promise out of Psalms 25. Who is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall he teach in the path he shall choose.

His soul shall dwell at ease. And the Lord will show him His covenant. And He fulfilled that on Friday night.

He finally showed me the fullness of His covenant. How He can take a woman who served God all her life. Had very little of money or anything else.

Just enough to bury herself and pay every dollar, every bill. But to see her laid down in such peace. To be so honored before a holy God.

How she could just lay down and a little tear in her eye. A little smile on her face and be gone in the presence of Jesus. I've seen God keep covenant.

And I tell you, we have no right to even have these doors open and call it a church. If we don't believe that God can see us through all of our troubles. God's not concerned about the stock market.

He's not concerned about the economy. That has nothing to do with us. He's the God of highs and lows.

God sees what you're going through. He sees your pain. He sees your sorrow.

And the enemy may be crossing down on you. But you can be sure there's a reason for it. Don't be afraid of the devil.

Don't be afraid. Oh God, he's right there. Right near me.

Looks like he's about to step on me. But he's not going to step on you. That which the devil is meant to be your destruction is going to be his own grave.

And God's going to be honored. On your job, before your family. He's going to be honored.

He's going to deliver you and honor himself in the process. Hallelujah. God's going to get honored.

Ask God this morning to remove fear. We have preached from this pulpit repentance. We've preached judgment.

The last two Sunday nights I've preached judgment on America and on New York City. But that judgment has nothing to do with you and me. We're not headed for judgment.

We're headed for deliverance. Hallelujah. We're headed for deliverance.

I want you to stand with me, if you will. There have never been in America, not that I know of, any three pastors who love each other more than we do. I stand before you to tell you I love Bob Phillips like my flesh and blood brother.

I see Jesus in that man and he blesses me every time I talk to him. I see Jesus in Don. He's more than my brother.

He's a man of God. There are no three pastors who've loved a congregation more than these pastors have loved this church. We would give our very lives.

We've not been here to just hammer you. We've been here to preach his mercy and his grace and his love. We're here to tell you this morning he cares and he loves you.

He's going to see you through. Not one of you. There's a dear sister whose husband's in jail.

God's going to be a husband to you. Some of you without a job and you're in panic. God's going to pay your bills.

You're not going to be on the street. God's going to meet you. You've got a body around you.

You've got people around you who care and pray. This is a body. Some of you sick and afflicted.

There's not one of you going to die alone without somebody there to love you and wipe your brow and pray with you. There have been many people scared to death. I'm going to die.

Nobody be around. I've heard many say that. Oh, no, you're a part of a body.

Glory be to Jesus. God's going to save your family. You're not alone.

My heart sings this morning because of his faithfulness. And if you see the devil pressing in near you, you can just thank God. He's about to do a job on you.

Hallelujah. He's about to bring him down. Hallelujah.

Father, we love you this morning. I am a father to you. You're my children.

See me as a father. See my hands outstretched. Receive my love.

I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I will go with you to the end.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Raise your hands and just love him this morning.

Lord, I love you. You're going to see me through. You're going to see me through, Jesus.

You're going to love me. You love us this morning with an undying love. With an undying love.

With an undying love, you see me. You care. Hallelujah.

With an undying love. You're our father. We're your children.

Hallelujah. We bless your name. Now, in the balcony, here on the main floor this morning, the Holy Spirit's been dealing with you.

I have to say it. There's somebody this morning that your heart's been drifting away from him. You were so close to him, but there's been a drifting away.

I want you to come back to his love this morning. He's drawing you by love this morning. And others of you in a great trial of your life.

You're going through the trial of your life. There's been a spirit of fear. More than that, almost a panic.

I want you to come to the front and ask God for deliverance. We're going to pray for deliverance this morning. Up in the balcony, go to either exits.

Here on the main floor, just come and stand here. If you've been backslidden, if you're not right with God, or if you've been in panic, and the devil's been trying to put fear in your life, I want you to come and join these that are coming. Come in close, please, and stand here at the front.

We're going to ask God for a miracle this morning. Up in the balcony, go to either side, down either step, and come down any aisle. And the Lord this morning is going to do a good work in your heart.

The Lord's going to give you a victory. He's going to bring peace to your heart. Peace.

If you haven't had peace, come and get it. Come and get your peace. Peace of mind this morning.

Peace and rest. Peace and rest in the Holy Ghost. Peace and rest in the Holy Ghost.

Hallelujah. Move in closer, please. Move in.

There's quite a bit of room yet. Move in a little closer. If you will make room for these that are coming down the aisles.

Thank you very much. Praise you, Jesus. Beloved, look this way for just a moment.

The Holy Spirit is so gentle. He's so gentle. Hallelujah.

Oh, he can blow and he can move mountains. But, boy, at times he's so gentle with us. He cares.

And we don't need to know what you're going through because he does. But this morning, will you let him lift that burden? Will you lay it down on him and say, Jesus, hallelujah. I'm not going to be afraid of the devil anymore.

I'm not going to be afraid of the enemy. And I'm going to trust you through this. I want to trust you through it.

Hallelujah. Praise you, Jesus. How many of you that are standing here that have come forward, the enemy has succeeded in bringing a sense of fear or panic in your heart about something? Raise your hand.

That's what I thought. Keep it raised, please. Keep it raised.

Heavenly Father, I pray now that you pluck out this fear and this panic right now. Unto him who is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the throne of grace with exceeding great joy. Father, I bind that in Jesus' name.

Remove it. Pluck it out right now. You that have your hands raised, say, Jesus, I give this fear to you right now.

You have not given me the spirit of fear, but of love and power and a sound mind. And by faith, I receive it. All right.

Put your hands down right now and thank him for it. Just thank him. Jesus, I thank you right now.

I thank you for that. Jesus, I thank you. I have another question this morning.

Even those in the aisle and you that are here at the front. And I want you to be honest. How many of you have been, you have to admit it, Bill Wilson, I've been back, I've been cold running from God.

And I'm coming back this morning. Raise your hand, please. I've been running and coming back to the Lord this morning.

I'm going to come back to him right now. Lord bless you. Keep your hand raised right now and pray it with me right now.

Jesus, you have your hand raised. Pray it right now. Jesus, I am coming back to your love.

I do need you. Fill me, Jesus, with your Holy Spirit and heal me. I trust you with my life.

All right. Lord, I pray for these with their hands raised right now that you finish the work that you've begun. You're doing a good work in their heart.

You're doing a good work, Lord Jesus, right now. A good work in their heart. And I thank you, Lord.

Bring encouragement. Let your word find a place. In Jesus' name, amen.

This is the conclusion of the tape.

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