

## CCC HOW TO FACE YOUR FEARS Part 6B

### Achieving Through Believing - Part 6

#### Exodus 14:1-31

Two weeks ago I bought a message on How to face your fears as part of the series we are calling “Achieving Through Believing.” I said in the first message on How to Face Your Fears that living by faith requires risk. You can't live without taking risks when you live a life of faith. See those of you who are followers of Christ You need to know that God asks His people to take risks all the time. The most famous story we started looking at in the Old Testament was Moses and the children of Israel crossing of the Red Sea. I am going to do a brief review then we will move on. Now the Bible tells us five days earlier before their crossing the Red Sea, Pharaoh had told Moses and the children of Israel that they could leave Egypt so they took

off on the exodus. After leaving God lead them to a cul-de-sac where they camped out. Now the real key here is that God lead them into a cul-de-sac. There are mountains on both sides of them, there's the Red Sea in front of them and the only way out from that cul-de-sac is to go back the way they came, to go back to their old life in Egypt, to go back to there old life of slavery and bondage. The Bible tells us that just about the time when they got to where God had lead them, they see Pharaoh coming with his chariots because Pharaoh had changed his mind. We read in Exodus 14:10 *"The Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians and they were terrified and they cried out to the Lord."* They are scared to death! See fear typically does four things to us.

**1. Fear tends to make us skeptical.** It causes us to doubt. It causes us to ask questions. It makes us skeptical.

v. 11 *"They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert?'"* Can you hear the sarcasm in their voice.

"Moses! What are you doing? Did you bring us out here just to let us die?" They're skeptical because they're afraid.

**2. Fear causes us to be selfish.** We focus only on ourselves, on our own needs. v. 11 *"What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt."* They're blaming Moses. What did you do to us?

When we're afraid we tend to blame other people. *"What have you done to us, Moses?"* We tend to pass the buck and passing the buck is an expression of fear. We accuse others and we excuse ourselves.

**3. Fear causes us to be stubborn.** When we're afraid we tend to be stubborn. v. 12 *"They said, 'did we not say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone. Let us serve the*

*Egyptians.'"* Fear causes us to resist change, fear causes us to resist anything new. *"Leave us alone."* That's a basic attitude toward life of a lot of people: Don't get too close to me! I might feel uncomfortable about that. That might threaten me. Don't upset my status quo life!

**4. Fear causes us to be shortsighted.** *"It would have been better for us to have served the Egyptians than for us to die in the desert."* Fear causes us to want to live in the past. We try to live over our past situations -- Let's go backwards, let's retreat, let's turn around and go back to Egypt. Let's forget this whole new idea." We become shortsighted. Little did they know what lays ahead them was everything they ever desired -- the Promised Land -- everything they wanted out of life was ahead of them but they were too short sighted because of fear. They said, "Let's go back!"

They said, "Let's go back to Egypt. I know it was painful there. I know I didn't like it. But let's go back there because at least we know it's a sure thing even in the midst of all the pain. At least I don't have to depend on God."

My question to you is, "Where are you short sighted in your life because of fear today?" What habit or hang-up or hurt are you holding onto because you say, "At least I know what it's like. I know who I am." I know I need to change, I know I need to let go of that habit, I know I need to change the way I think there or act here... but change is scary and I've always been this way and I like it just this way.

### **How do you take risks in faith?**

We'll the Israelites did three things. There are three things you can do when you need to make a step, when you need to take a risk, when you need to lay it on the line.

Here's how you take risks in faith. Here's how you face your fears.

1. Let go
2. Look up
3. Launch out

### **1. LET GO OF YOUR FEAR**

Look what Moses said in v. 13 "*Moses answered the people, 'Do not be afraid.'*" He said, let go of your fear.

365 times in the Bible it says, -- "Fear not." That's one for every day of the year for you. Moses is saying, "Let go. Cast all your cares on God. You say, Lord, this is too heavy a burden. I can't handle it. I'm too afraid." Let go of your fear.

How do you let go of your fear? There's only one way.

Recognize the fear and remind yourself that God is in control of your life. That's the only way you will ever let

go of a fear. Recognize and remind yourself that God is in control. Remind yourself that God is in control and God has led you there and the safest place to be is in the center of God's will. So what's the lesson here? **When God guides, God provides. Where God guides, God provides.** If God has brought in all kinds of problems in your life and He's allowed these things to happen, you're ready for something exciting to happen.

I think about Calvary sometimes. God has led us step by step by step. Here we are in a situation with all kinds of different problems and situation... Yet we're ultimately safe... Why? Because who led us here? God did. Why does God lead you into impossible situations?

I'm doing it for My glory, God says." I'm doing it so people will say look at what there God has done. Their God is real and powerful. God said, "I allowed this

situation so I can prove My power and My strength and I can get glory."

God allows you in these situations for His glory.

How do you face your fears:

## **2. LOOK UP**

Look up to God. v. 13 *"Moses answered the people and said `Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance of the Lord that He will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you. You only need to be still.'" Over and over again in the Bible, God says, "Stand still! Watch Me do it! Be still! Be quiet! Watch Me! Keep your eyes on Me! Look up!"*

Why does He say stand still, because fear always causes you to run. When you're afraid, the natural reaction is "I've got to get out of here! I'm leaving. I can't handle the

pressure. It's too much. I'm going to leave my wife, my job, and my kids. I'm going to quit. I'm going to leave this situation." And what do we do, we run. But God says, "Stand still." You can't see God act unless you're standing still. You can't see Him when you're running. He says, "Look up. Relax. Calm down."

What's ironic is at this point there was nowhere to run anyway for these Israelites. There was no alternative but to stand still. The ocean is in front of them, there are mountains on either side and Pharaoh and his army are behind. About all they could do was stand still

The interesting thing about the Israelites is that they looked every direction -- east and saw mountains, west and saw mountains, north and saw the ocean, and they looked south and saw the Egyptians. They looked everywhere but up to God first.

You can imagine the situation. Moses and the children of Israel are camped in this cul-de-sac of impossibility and one of them says, "Moses, they're coming." A few minutes later another one comes, "Moses! They're getting closer." Finally somebody comes up and shakes him and says, "Moses! Do something!"

What's happening, and what's the lesson here for us? The lesson is that God often waits until the last second to answer. Amen is there anyone in here who knows what I am talking about say Amen. Why is that? Why does he do that? Does HE do that because He likes to frustrate you. That is so frustrating sometimes. Why didn't He give it to them a week ago? He could have let them know what was going to happen... Why didn't he... It's a test of faith. It grows our faith. God wants to know how long can you wait. It's a test of faith and listen it grows our faith. He'll

wait right until the last second and then the waters will part. God guides, God provides, and you look up to the Father, because you know that it may be at the last second that He bails you out. How do you face your fears:

**3. LAUNCH OUT** Launch out in faith. Get it in gear.

Move. It's the moment of truth. Go for it. Listen to verse 15 here with Moses *"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you crying to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.*

*Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.'"* This is the moment of truth. You launch out in faith. This is where you lay it on the line.

Forge ahead. God says, "Take the plunge!"

The fact is there is a time to pray and there is a time to act. There is a time to fast and believe and expect and there's a time to move. There is a time to sit and wait and

stand firm in expectation and then there is a time to go for it. That's why we are Spirit filled , Spirit lead people.

Make the investment. Faith is a verb. It's not passive, it's active. It's an action. It's moving, stepping out, launching out, and forging ahead. If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat! That's the moment of decision.

How do you get rid of fear in your life? The secret of eliminating fear in your life is move against the fear.

**Fear is learned so therefore fear can be unlearned.** Ask any psychologist, the Bible teaches it -- move against your fear. Do the very thing that you fear. God says to Moses, "Move on! Go for it. Take the risk. Step out and watch your fear vanish before your eyes." Watch the waters part as you walk through on dry land. Face you fears. Behold the turtle! He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out! Faith is action. It's more than just believing. You can

say you believe a chair will hold you up. But nothing happens until you sit down on it. That's the act of faith.

Everybody has faith. It's just what you put it in. Put it in God. The key to overcoming is move against your fear. Take action. v. 16 *"Raise the staff and stretch out your hands over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go [around the sea?, over the sea?] through the sea."* The lesson is this: God usually takes you through your problems, not around them. God usually takes you through the problem, through the crisis, through the situation, through the impossibility and not around it. He'll take you right through the middle of it. v. 21 *"Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and he turned it into dry land. And the waters were divided. And the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground with a wall*

*of water on their right and on their left."* How would you like to be these people? How would you feel walking through this Red Sea, a wall of water on either side? You get about half way through and you realize it's just as far to the other side as it is back. You're thinking, at any moment this could fall in on me.

Every step was a step of faith. Every step was a risk. That's the way God works in your life, and there's no way you can get around it. You can't live without taking risks. You can exist... but you can't live for Christ without taking risk. God wants us to live by faith. We are constantly trying to take the risk out of our society. But God says, "That's part of living so you will trust Me."

The history of this church is we've taken one risk after another after another. The first risk came when it was started. There were no money and no buildings and no

members. It was a risk. We didn't have any money for the first service so we met in a person house. Then a few weeks later, about five families took a risk. We made a commitment to spend \$1,800 a month for the use of an Elementary school to meet in and before we even had our first service in the school we had to buy equipment and other things. We spent around \$7,500 divided among five families -- that was a risk. But let me tell you we all got it back in blessings. **It wasn't an expense... it was an investment.** It was taking a risk with God. Five families said, "Let's do it." Every move we have ever made... every growth time we have ever had we have taken a risk and if your part of the church your going to have to take a risk to... because we need to do our part.

Now we face another test. Here we are facing this issue of taking a risk. We are taking steps for an expansion program

enlarging what we have... There are people who believed in this ministry, people who believed God and they took a step of faith joining me in a 34 day prayer campaign and some have even given your money to the Expansion Fund obviously we have had an 18% increase in the funds and I am believing that there will be others to join in and take the risk of giving to the expansion program.

You know I was studying on Moses for this message and Edna-Wynne and I were talking and she made a statement that is so profound to me... it was just as the Lord Himself was talking to me. She said, "What we want God to do for us, He waits to do through us." WOW That is so significant. What we want God to do for us, He waits to do through us so we can be part of the miracle.

Now to a personal note, what is the Red Sea in your life this morning? What is it you're afraid of? What is it

that scares you to death? What is that fear in your life?

What daring decision do you need to make?

How does fear show up in your life?

Does it show up in your life through skepticism? Do you have a tendency to be a doubter? Do you tend to be a little cynical maybe, or sarcastic. Maybe you doubt other people, or you doubt yourself thinking, ("I could never do that!") or you even doubt God. You doubt His love or you doubt His power – You think... "Can even God do that?"

Maybe fear shows up in your life through selfishness or you have a tendency to blame other people. "Moses, why did you bring us out here? It's all your fault!" That's a favorite phrase when we're afraid -- "It's all your fault!"

We pass the buck. It's your responsibility.

You accuse them and you excuse yourself.

Maybe fear shows up in your life in a little bit of stubbornness. You have a tendency to be afraid of change. You just don't like to rock the boat. You like everything to be settled. You don't want to make any changes. You have a hard time admitting it when you're wrong. Really, you're stubborn because you're afraid if you admit you're wrong somebody might not like you the way you are...

Maybe you have fear show up through shortsightedness. You never set any goals and you never have any dreams and you never take any steps. You have a tendency to live in the past. "Let's just go back to Egypt. I know my life right now isn't so hot but at least I know what it's like back where I was. If I really committed my life to Christ, it might become something I'd be afraid of."

Then a very penetrating question: What painful hang-up in your life are you willfully holding on to?

Maybe a habit. "I know this is wrong, but if I gave it up, what might happen?"

Maybe it's a relationship.

Maybe it's a way of responding or acting or relating to life.

Maybe it's a regret that you don't want to let go of. You keep piling the guilt on yourself.

Maybe its resentment and you don't want to forgive the other person.

**Invite the Praise Band to come back up front:**

I dare you to take three steps this morning in faith. I dare you to take a risk this morning. Risk!

**1. Let go.** Let go of the fear. Remember that God is in control and say, "Lord, I don't understand it all but I know that where **You guide, You provide**. So I'm going to let it go and drop it on You. The fear is too heavy, it's eating me alive!"

**2. Look up.** Look up to God and say, "I don't understand it all. I'm going to stop looking at the problem and start looking at the solution. You may wait until the very last second but I'm going to trust You and look to You."

**3. Launch out.** Go for it. Make the move. Move against the fear and do the very thing you're most afraid of and watch the waters part.

**Prayer:**

Some of you are saying, "There are some things I've been considering. I've been praying about becoming a Christian, or I've been praying about being baptized, or I've been thinking about joining the church. I've given some thought to tithing. I've really been praying about inviting my friend to church." God says to you this morning, "It's time to stop

praying and start acting." Move ahead. Raise your staff and take a step of faith.

I dare you to break out of a rut. I dare you to do something significant with the rest of your life. I dare you to commit 100% of your business to God. I dare you to commit 100% of your job to God. I dare you to commit 100% of your family to God.

Some of you need to give your life to Jesus Christ this morning. You need to go for it and let go of those old patterns and old habits and ways of reacting and responding that you know are hurtful and harmful and cause you a lot of pain but you've lived with them so long they are like friends even though they're not friends -- they're your enemies. Let go of them today. Say, "Jesus Christ, this morning I let go of my fear and I look up to You and I launch out in faith. I realize that wherever You

guide, You will provide. You may wait until the last second to test my faith but You will come through. I thank You for that. Help me to realize that what I've asked You to do for me, You want to do through me."

Lord, I want to thank You for your word, even as it relates to our church. I know that what we're asking You to do for us, You want to do through us and let us be a part of the miracle. We thank You for that privilege. Thank You for the impossible situations we face right now. It will be for Your glory and our growth. We thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen

**HOW TO FACE YOUR FEARS**  
**Achieving Through Believing - Part 6**  
**Exodus 14:1-31**

*"The Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians and they were terrified and they cried out to the Lord. Exodus 14:10*

**REVEIW**

**I. FOUR WAYS FEAR AFFECTS US**

1. FEAR MAKES US \_\_\_\_\_

*"They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert?'" Exodus 14:11a*

2. FEAR MAKES US \_\_\_\_\_

*"What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt." Exodus 14:11b*

3. FEAR MAKES US \_\_\_\_\_

*"They said, 'did we not say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone. Let us serve the Egyptians.'" Exodus 14:12a*

4. FEAR MAKES US \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12b)

*"It would have been better for us to have served the Egyptians than for us to die in the desert." Exodus 14:12b*

When you step out in faith, you can expect some people to react these our ways because they are afraid.

**II. HOW TO TAKE RISKS IN FAITH**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.13a)  
*"Do not be afraid"*

LESSON:

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13- 14)  
*"Stand firm and see..."*

LESSON:

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15)  
*"Tell the people to move on..."*

LESSON (vs. 16):

What is the "Red Sea" you are facing today