

**Title:** Open Door

**Text:** Exodus 14:10-16/Hebrews 11:29-31

**Target:** God opens doors that are closed, and closes doors that are open, and creates doors that do not exist.

- I. **A Dead End of Despair:** *“When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.”* (Ex. 14:10)
  - A. **Their Outlook was Delusional:** *“They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?”* (Ex. 14:11)
  - B. **Their Outcome was Defeat:** *“Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”* (Ex. 14:12)
- II. **A Dead-End of Deliverance:** *“And Moses said to the people, “* (Ex. 14:13a)
  - A. **Trust His Promises:** *“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.”* (Ex. 14:13b)
    1. **Faith over Fear:** *“Fear Not”*
    2. **Stand in Strength:** *“Stand firm”*
    3. **Witness the Work:** *“See the Salvation”*
  - B. **Trust His Protection:** *“The LORD will fight for you”* (Ex. 14:14a)
  - C. **Trust His Prerequisite:** *“And you have only to be silent”* (Ex. 14:14b)
- III. **A Dead-End requires a Decision:** *“The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.”* (Ex. 14:15)
  - A. **Pivot from your Past:** *“why do you cry to me?”* (Vs. 15a)
    1. Delete the Loop in your head.
    2. Admit you need help to get out.
    3. Stop with the Excuses.
  - B. **Step into your Future:** *“Go forward”* (Vs. 15b)
    1. God's already there.
    2. Choose the path least traveled.
    3. Invite others to come with you.
- IV. **A Dead-End becomes a Doorway:** *“Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.”* (Ex. 14:16)
  - A. **God wants to use you:** *“lift up your staff and stretch out your hand”* (Vs. 16a)
  - B. **God wants to show you:** *“and divide it”* (Vs. 16b)
  - C. **God wants to affirm you:** *“Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.”* (Ex. 14:31)

**Takeaway:** God didn't carry you this far to drop you now!

**Sermon Discussion Questions:**

Here we are at the end of our 21 days of prayer and fasting. You did it! Take a moment to reflect over these 3 weeks. Think about where you were at the beginning of this journey. What is different for you from 3 weeks ago? Have you seen any breakthroughs or victories? Have you drawn closer to God and in turn has He drawn closer to you?

Just like Moses and the Israelites, God wants to make a way where there seems to be no way. Perhaps that is exactly where you found yourself (needing to find a way in your wilderness) prior to the start of our 21 days prayer and fasting. You may still be waiting for your breakthrough. That's ok, continue to press in to the LORD. Or you could be on this side of your breakthrough and able to look back and see where God split your "sea" wide open. In either circumstance, God is faithful and He wants us to "fear not." Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us that His ways are higher and His thoughts are not our thoughts. He is a good God and He can be trusted! Remember, we don't fight for victory, we fight from a place of victory!!

Would you consider continuing on in this spiritual discipline of fasting? You can choose to continue fasting from the same thing, you could choose to begin fasting from something different, or you could do both! Whatever you choose, replace whatever you are fasting from with time in His presence.