

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Change and Adjustment

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### Introduction

Our God is an active, present tense God. He has purpose and direction. Because of His nature, He is doing something among His people and He doesn't ask our permission concerning His actions or His timing. Even if we don't like what God is doing, it is always wonderful when God moves. When He takes action, it means that things begin to change. When something new occurs that also means that we have to change in order to keep up with what the Lord is doing.

Change on our part means that we must allow adjustments in all areas of our life. We tend to make our adjustments to best serve our desires and our comfort. God makes His adjustments in us to conform us to the image of His Son without any concern for our comfort or fleshly desire. This is the preparation and empowerment for us to accomplish His purpose.

All progress that we make in God requires change and change is difficult. Nobody changes because they want to; people change because they have to. Each time that the necessity of change occurs, it presents us with a new set of challenges; we face a new set of problems, a new set of issues, a new set of adjustments. The moment that we get comfortable with the new circumstances, the Lord moves on requiring us to continue to change and adjust to his purpose.

The only way that we can reach the future is to let go of the past. As long as we cling to the past we can never reach the future. Many times God will use someone to push us. We need that even though God is speaking to us and revealing His plans to us, we have to overcome that initial resistance to change and that frequently requires another body member to help us.

### Crises Situations

The Scriptures tell us that we are not to be “conformed but transformed” [*Rom. 12:2*]. Comfort moves us toward “conformed to the world” but being transformed requires radical adjustment to who we are and what we do. This is usually accomplished through crises situations. Many times we put our selves into crises through our actions but sometimes the Lord will put us into a crises situation to begin the process of change in us.

We have a clear picture of this with the Children of Israel leaving Egypt. They were making good time getting out of Egypt and heading for the caravan route to Canaan when the Lord spoke to Moses and told him to move the camp into the edge of the wilderness by the Red Sea [*Exodus 14:1-4*]. The Lord had two purposes in having Moses move the people. The first was to cause the people to avoid the Philistines because there would be a fight and the Israelites weren't ready to see war. It would cause them to lose heart and turn back. The second reason the Lord had for the move was stir up Pharaoh to go after them to bring them back to Egypt. In other words, the Lord, on purpose, put them into a crises situation.

The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly. Then the Egyptians chased after them *with* all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon. As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD. (*Exodus 14:8-10 NASB*)

Now, with the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh and his army coming behind them, they faced the crisis issue according to three options. The first option was to fight—that was no good because they wouldn't stand a chance. The second option was to submit—yield to Pharaoh and quietly return to Egypt; not a good thing considering how they had left. The third option was to flee—but there was nowhere to run; the only open way was wilderness. They saw the only solution as death. However, God had a fourth option—His escape plan [*1 Cor. 10:13*]. The Lord never leaves us stranded in a crises but always makes His way of escape, but we can only find it through faith.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. "As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land. (*Exodus 14:15-16 NASB*)

The direction of Canaan was forward. It didn't matter that the Red Sea was between them and it. There is almost a rebuke in God's answer to Moses. It was like He was saying, "didn't I tell you to go to Canaan? Get on with it! Move forward!" It didn't seem to matter that the Red Sea was in the way. God's option can only be achieved by the miraculous working of the Lord and our faith that He actually has a fourth option available to us.

In all of our difficult situations, God has made "the way of escape". This is a specific escape path that He designed. When we search for a way of escape we are really looking for a way to run. We have eliminated the first two options and are actively seeking the third option—a way to flee. God's escape plan (the fourth option) is always in the direction of the fulfillment of His promise and purpose and can only be accomplished through active faith.

There are several key points that we should learn from this: 1) we must focus on the goal (purpose) to which God has called us and not allow any circumstances to cause us to waiver in fulfilling that purpose; 2) we should only look for God's fourth option in the direction of the goal which He set for us; and 3) we can't do what God has not prepared us to do. (In this case, God had not yet prepared the them to fight.)

The process of change that was begun in the Israelites was a changing of the mind, what the New Testament calls "renewing the mind". They had been slaves in Egypt for several generations. They thought like slaves and acted like slaves. They had a slave mentality. However, but the time that they were to reach the Promised Land they had to have a new mentality. They would have to think and

act like warriors and not slaves. The Lord knew this but they didn't. So, between Egypt and Canaan it was necessary that the Israelites change their identity from slave to warrior. To begin this process the Lord needed to show them that the warriors of Egypt would be unable to re-capture them and that He would lead them to victory.

The Lord does the same with us. He will put us in a crises situation so that we can begin the process of change to become what the Lord intends, which usually includes adjustments in who we are and in what we do.

### **Five Areas of Adjustment**

Whether we like it or not, if we want to move on in God, there are five areas where we will need to make adjustments and change.

1. To fulfill His purposes we must be willing to adjust our life, our beliefs, our plans, and even to adjust where we live, if necessary.
2. We must be willing to adjust any or all of our circumstances, including our work, our finances, our recreation, all of the things that surround us on a daily basis.
3. We must be willing to adjust our relationships, including our business relationships, our social relationships (our friends), and any prejudices that we hold. God is no respecter of persons—He holds no prejudices, neither can we. Our methodology of creating relationships may also need to change. The Lord doesn't establish relationships through networking but through His Spirit.
4. We must be willing to adjust our predispositions, traditions, and doctrines, including how the family is structured, how the father is supposed to act, what it means to be a husband or a wife.
5. We must be willing to adjust our beliefs and our actions. As we move on in God our actions change according to our understanding of the ways of God and if we hold incorrect beliefs, we have to adjust to the truth of His Word.

The Lord meets us where we are. The passover is in Egypt. However, He doesn't leave us where we are. He has delivered us from Egypt. However, His deliverance is a continuing process until we reach the Promised Land. While we need to be delivered from our enemies including the devil and evil men, our greatest need is to be delivered from ourselves—who we were and what we used to do. That form of deliverance requires “renewing the mind”, putting off the old man and putting on the new man. It requires us to let go of who we were and what we used to do. It requires us to embrace a new identity in the Lord, which involves radical change and adjustment to our lives.

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