



*52 Weeks  
of Power*

WEEK 08



# Week 08



## EXODUS 13:17

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When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

## EXODUS 13:21

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By day, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.



As we navigate our lives, our flesh impatiently cries out for short cuts. We prefer the easy way versus the hard way when we face struggles. However, as we read through Scripture we learn that God uses the long way to transform and set His people free. Our spirits may know nothing is too hard for Him, but our brains say, "it is too hard for ME." Our brains will try to fight and reason our way into taking the short cuts and demand the 'suddenly' type of miracle to remove us from the discomfort and pain of the circumstances we find ourselves walking through. God is absolutely capable of changing things immediately but throughout Scripture we see He doesn't tend to do things quickly. The things we also see are the transformation, perseverance, maturity, faith and restoration through these stories.

In the present day, we have the luxury of reading these stories and seeing how things panned out. In our own lives, it's challenging because we're living the story and don't yet know the details of how the challenge we're facing will be conquered. This is where the battle between our brain and our heart takes place, in the current discomfort we are

feeling and the truth of God's goodness and faithfulness. Just because where we find ourselves doesn't FEEL good, this doesn't change that God IS good.

Another thing we also see in Scripture is God's presence, like the fire by night and cloud by day as He led the Israelites through the desert. He is always present regardless of the season we are walking through. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us. He stays present so we don't quit, so we are able to keep putting one foot in front of the other. He is present so we can keep going when things are good (day) or when things are hard (night). He has a plan and purpose for our lives and it includes freedom, peace, joy, prosperity, comfort, healing and hope.

The truth is that He has not given us a spirit of fear. So, when He takes us the long way, we can have peace knowing He goes before us. He has a plan that we can trust!

*READ:*

Exodus 14:15, 14:31

*REFLECT:*

**Question 1:** Think of a past situation where you asked God to take you through immediately, but instead, He took you the long way. What developed in your life as a result of His timing?

**Question 2:** What mindset do you have when facing difficulties?

**Question 3:** In what area of your life is God asking you to confidently move forward, though you are feeling fear?

*PRAYER:*

Father, thank you for knowing my beginning and end. Thank you for having a plan and being in control. Thank you that your ways are higher than mine. Give me peace when faced with situations I do not understand and faith when I don't see how the story is going to end. Surround me with your presence in all seasons. Give me the ability to see your fingerprints and where you are at work in my life when things are not going according to my plan. When you are taking me the long way, continue to shape and mold me into the person you have created me to be. In Jesus' name. Amen