

Faith to Move Into Action

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

—Hebrews 11:29

God has a way of bringing our options down to one. He has a way of securing the response to His Word down to one. God did not lead the children of Israel through the land of the Philistines, lest they turn back altogether. He wanted instead to bring them to the place where they would have no choice but to turn utterly to Him. That was “the crunch”—not turning back.

There was nothing to do but to lift up that rod—and watch God do the rest. Moses may have thought, I’ve never done this before. I may look like a fool, but here it goes! Up the rod went. Across the wind came. God did the rest.

They didn’t swim across. They walked. They didn’t run. They walked. They enjoyed the spectacular sight up close. Some were given the honor of carrying the bones of Joseph. They had pockets full of loot, jewels, valuables. Parents would say to their children, “Take a close look at this. This is our God at work. Don’t ever forget it.” Pharaoh, in the meantime, made the most unwise calculation to be seen among the Egyptians yet. What was it? The Egyptians thought that they could do what the children of Israel had done.

Their most fatal error was trying to continue the pursuit of Israel across the Red Sea, but they realized it too late. For the same pillar of fire and cloud that had been Israel’s guidance became Egypt’s confusion.

The rod that was used to deliver Israel was used to condemn the Egyptians. The same Word that saves some will condemn others. Faith does what cannot be done by those who do not believe. And yet, faith also does what crying to God cannot

do. There comes a time that we must act, do, obey. Lift up your rod. If that is what God has told you to do, nothing else will happen until you do it. Doing it is faith.

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