

## Rule #1: When God Leads Me To Difficulty

Red Sea Rules #1

Tim Gill - October 28, 2018

Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.

**Exodus 14:1-2 (NIV)**

### What do I do when life gets difficult?

#### 1. I Believe God brings me to it.

Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” So the Israelites did this.

**Exodus 14:1-4 (NIV)**

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don’t jump to the conclusion that God isn’t on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

**1 Peter 4:12-13 (MSG)**

God brings me to difficulty for my preparation!

- My difficulties will reveal my weakness. (Psalm 106:7)

Question: What weakness does my difficulty reveal?

- My difficulties will shape my character. (Romans 5:1-5)

Question: What is God trying to develop in me?

- My difficulties can strengthen my faith. (Hebrews 5:8)

Question: Where do I need to trust God ‘again’?

- My difficulties offer moments to glorify God. (Philippians 1:12)

Question: Does my response to difficulty promote the gospel?

#### 2. I Believe God is with me while I’m in it.

The LORD showed them the way; during the day he went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud, and during the night he was in a pillar of fire to give them light... <sup>22</sup> The pillar of cloud was always with them during the day, and the pillar of fire was always with them at night.

**Exodus 13:21-22 (NCV)**

You will leave Babylon, but they will not force you to leave in a hurry. You will not be forced to run away. The Lord will be in front of you. The God of Israel will be behind you. **Isaiah 52:12 (ERV)**

I look behind me and you’re there, then up ahead and you’re there, too— your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful— I can’t take it all in! **Psalm 139:5-6 (MSG)**

#### 3. I Believe God will lead me through it.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

**Exodus 14:21-22 (NIV)**

Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters— a pathway no one knew was there! **Psalm 77:19 (NLT)**

This is what the Lord says. He is the one who made a road through the sea. Even through rough waters he made a path for his people. **Isaiah 43:19 (ICB)**

The men were amazed. They said, “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” **Matthew 8:27 (ICB)**

I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them. <sup>11</sup> They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria’s pride will be brought down and Egypt’s scepter will pass away. <sup>12</sup> I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will live securely,” declares the LORD.

**Zechariah 10:10-12 (NIV)**