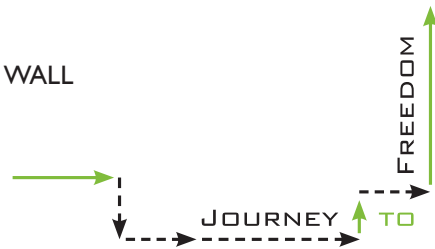


## WHEN YOUR BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL

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"When Pharaoh let the people go, God **did not lead them [directly]** though that way was shorter. For God said, 'If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.'" Exodus 13:17 (NIV)

God uses delays to PREPARE US

"...God led you through the wilderness for forty years...**testing you** to find out how you would respond and if you would obey..." Deut. 8:2 (LB)

God uses delays to TEST US

## What To Do While You're Waiting for God

### 1. Don't FEAR

"As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. **In great fear** the Israelites cried out to the LORD." Exodus 14:10 (NRSV)

Instead: FOCUS ON GOD'S PRESENCE

"**Fear not**, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God, I will strengthen you and I will help you... and uphold you..." Isaiah 41:10 (LB)

### 2. Don't FRET

"...On the way **the people lost their patience** and spoke against God and Moses. They complained..." Numbers 21:4-5 (GN)

"Impatience will get you into trouble." Proverbs 19:2 (GN)

Instead: TRUST GOD'S TIMING

"**Rest** in the Lord; wait patiently for Him to act ... **Don't fret** and worry -- it only leads to harm." Psalm 37:7-8 (LB)

"God has set the **right time** for everything." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (GN)

### 3. Don't FAINT

"They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.'" Exodus 14:11-12 (NRSV)

"All the Israelites grumbled against Moses... 'If only we had died in Egypt! ... We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.'" Numbers 14:2-4 (NIV)

Instead: BE PERSISTENT AND PRAY

"Let us never grow tired of doing what's right, for if we **do not faint**, we'll reap a harvest at the **right time**." Galatians 6-9 (MOF)

"You need to **pray continually** and not lose heart." Luke 18:1 (JB)

### 4. Don't FORGET

"**They forgot** the many times God showed them his love, and they rebelled ... at the Red Sea. But He saved them as He promised... But **they quickly forgot** again! They wouldn't wait for God to act..." Psalm 106:7-8 (GN), 13 (LB)

Instead: REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES

"I will bless the Lord and **not forget** the great things he does for me." Psalm 103:2 (LB)

"The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises ...but ... is being patient with you..." 2 Peter 3:3-8 (JB)

"These things won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair; for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!" Habakkuk 2:3 (LB)