



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 17:1-7

1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 17:1-7

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As I read this passage, I realized at times that I look to the wrong things as the people of Israel did in verse 3. They were looking at Moses as their deliverer. Sometimes, I tend to forget my Identity and who I am in Jesus Christ. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." The Israelites didn't have Jesus, but they had Moses who was being led by God. God showed them He was taking care of them through the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, just to name a few. In our lives, we have difficulties that He has brought us through. Instead of wondering and worrying about our situations, we should be asking God to bring us through again and thanking Him for deliverance. These trials should strengthen our faith (James 1:2-4).



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There are several things we know about God from Exodus and see throughout the Scriptures. First, we know the Lord is omniscient. He knows everything. He knows our needs better than we do. Matthew 6:8 states: "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Second, He is omnipotent, or all-powerful. He has all the power to supply you with everything you need. Psalm 81:10 says, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the Land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."

Third, He is omnipresent in that He is everywhere and at work for our behalf. Psalm 34:7-8 states: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"

So, I encourage us to keep looking to Him in all our situations and circumstances. Let us "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) When we are thankful in all our situations, we are trusting the Lord with our lives. Let His will be done!

Questions:

1. Who are you trusting? Man, idols (your job, reputation, finances, etc) or God?
2. Are you focused on your circumstances or God's truths?
3. Do you truly believe the LORD has your best interest in all circumstances? Why or why not?