

The Miracle or the Message

Week 2

April 19, 2026

Do we desire the miracle more than we desire obedience to God's message?

***Purpose of the Struggle:**

- God allows struggle to position us in surrender. Struggles reveal our weaknesses and dependence on God. Our focus is often wrong: "God, remove this" or "God, grow me through this"

Truth: Faith doesn't always remove the struggle - it can transform how we experience it

Two outcomes when faith grows:

- God removes the struggle and your faith overcomes the struggle

*** The Heart Question:**

- Why would God remove the struggle if He can't trust us to stay surrendered afterward?

Reflection:

- Do I seek God only in difficulty? Will I remain committed after deliverance?

Relationship Over Relief:

- Just like relationships grow in hard seasons or God may allow struggle to draw us closer to Him

Key Idea: God desires ongoing relationship, not temporary dependence

***God's Route is Intentional (Exodus 13:17-18):**

- God did NOT take Israel the shortest route and the easy path was actually the most dangerous

Why? They weren't ready for war and fear could have driven them back to Egypt

Application:

- The "long way" may be Protection, Preparation, Purpose

***When God's Plan Looks Confusing (Exodus 14:1-4):**

- God led them into what looked like a trap, from the outside: confusion and from God's perspective: strategy

Truth: What looks like confusion to us is often God setting up His glory

***Just Because You're Delivered Doesn't Mean You're Not Pursued:**

- Pharaoh chased Israel even after they were freed
- Representation: Pharaoh = the enemy (Satan). Israel = God's people

Key Truth: Deliverance doesn't stop the enemy from pursuing you

***The Danger of Going Back:**

- Israel wanted to return to Egypt. Why? - fear of the unknown or comfort in familiar pain

Warning:

- Don't normalize bondage and don't trade freedom for familiarity

***The Message in the Moment (Exodus 14:13–14):**

- "Do not be afraid", "Stand firm", "The Lord will fight for you", "Be still"

Key Principle: The same God who led you in will lead you out

***The Pattern of Complaining:**

- 3 Days Later: Complained about water. 1 Month Later: Complained about food

Reality Check:

- God had already: delivered them, guided them, protected them

Question: Is God doing enough for you?

Final Takeaways:

- God is more interested in your faith than your comfort
- The struggle may be: building your faith, strengthening your relationship with God
- Don't miss the message chasing the miracle

Reflection Questions:

1. What struggle am I asking God to remove?
2. How might God be trying to grow me through it?
3. Am I more focused on relief or relationships?
4. Have I been complaining instead of trusting?