

LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION!

TEXT: Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward.

Hebrews 6:1-3:

¹ *Therefore leaving the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of Repentance from dead works, and of Faith toward God,*

² *Of the Doctrine of Baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

³ *And this will we do, if God permit.*

Exodus 14:15: *And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto Me? speak unto the Children of Israel, that they go forward:*

The Lord tells us in His Word that we are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are to grow up into Him Who is the Head of all principalities and powers. There is no stopping place in God. No one has all there is to get, and no one can exhaust God.

Our spirituality is to be measured by our hunger and thirst after righteousness, and by our hatred of sin.

We are told in this text to leave the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ. In other words, do not constantly camp in and around the salvation experience alone. There is much more for you in Christ. There are other experiences in Grace that are wonderful — glorious! You did not exhaust Christ's redemptive work when you got saved. There is much more provided for you and paid for at Calvary.

We just saw in **Hebrews 6:1** that Paul said: "*Let us go . . . let us move ahead . . . let us move on*"; and how The Lord told Moses in **Exodus 14:15**: "*Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward*".

"FORWARD MARCH" IS THE COMMAND FROM THE Captain of our Salvation. We cannot stand still, for there is too much ground that needs to be possessed.



These Words were spoken in:

Joshua 13:1: Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.

Years after Moses had gone to be with the Lord, there was still a lot of land to be possessed.

They tell all of us this simple message: It is so easy to settle down and to take it easy. We are so content when we are set free from the bondage of the devil, and saved from our sins. We just don't feel we need anything more.

We are right now about to cross the threshold of another level. The orders are to go forward, onward and upward, and never retreat.

Let me give you the background to these orders from the Lord. The Children of Israel had been prisoners to the Egyptians and Pharaoh for 430 years. With a mighty Hand and supernatural Power, the Lord delivered them from the house of bondage. God brought swift judgments upon Pharaoh and his people to make them willing to let Israel go.



Then Pharaoh tried compromises to hold them. They had the power of choice. They knew what God was wanting to do, and they were not the least in doubt what the devil wanted them to do — to simply disobey the Lord's Word. He offered four tempting compromises, but Moses said, *"There shall not be a foot left behind"*, for God had spoken and told Moses that they must go three days' journey into the wilderness to worship.



Exodus 10:26: Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the LORD our God; and we know not with what we must serve the LORD, until we come thither.

Egypt is a type of the world, so we can see more clearly why God gave such a command. The call is: *"Come ye out from among them and be ye separate" saith the Lord.*

Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you unto Myself".

2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;

and I will receive you,

Revelation 18:4 : And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

There must be complete separation. God wants us to get out — so we can get in!
We cannot come into Canaan's Promised Land unless we get all the way out of Egypt.

There must be complete separation.

God will not give us what we do not seek for and want. There must be a starting place — the foundation of our faith must be laid. But the Lord doesn't want us to spend all our time building on the foundation.

He said in:

Hebrews 6:1: Therefore leaving the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Suddenly before the Children of Israel is the great Red Sea. It is an obstacle in their way of getting where the Lord wanted them to go. Behind them — the Egyptians in pursuit.



The devil and his imps come from behind, coming at us in fury because the Lord has set us free from him. Before us are obstacles that will require the miracle-working power of the Lord to get us over to the other side.

Salvation is a miracle, so is sanctification and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is part of our wilderness preparation for the Promised Land. The Promised Land is a type of the Spirit-filled, victorious life. God wants us to get all there is to be gotten. He does not want us to be sold short of His fullness.

Paul puts it this way:

Ephesians 3:19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Our text shows Israel encamped between Migdol and the Red Sea. This was like a little “time out” and “rest break” from their toil in Egypt. It was not meant to be a permanent thing. They were now rested and refreshed, and it was time to get on

the move. God said, “*Speak to the Children of Israel, that they go forward*”. Suddenly they were frightened by the rushing armies of Pharaoh. Before them: an impassable Red Sea. Behind them: the avengers of death. There is no spiritual armor for their back except the Presence of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:10-17:

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

¹¹ Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

There is no spiritual armor for their back except the Presence of the Lord.

Our protection from behind is only the Presence of the Lord who was in the pillar of cloud for the Children of Israel.



Exodus 13:21: And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Why doesn't God stop this monstrous hoard of murderers in Pharaoh's army? The answer is sure to be found in verse four - “*That the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord*”.

Exodus 14:4: And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

God lets the forces of darkness trouble us, only as He is using the devil to keep prodding us on. Have you ever watched a good trained shepherd dog, or a dairyman's dog who gathers up the cows to bring them in for milking? They keep biting at the heels of the cattle that are lingering behind to keep them on the move. This is all the Lord allows the devil to do with us.



This forward movement is for the whole church. It is not a sea-saw movement. It is a matter of victory or defeat — whether we go on or sit still.

It will take a miracle for the Children of Israel to go forward. God is well able for that if we trust Him and not allow ourselves to become paralyzed with fear. They were ordered to hold their peace — *“and the Lord will fight for you”*.

Exodus 14:13-14:

¹³ And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the Salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

¹⁴ The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.



So Moses lifted up his rod and the sea parted. The waters stood up as a heap on either side of them and congealed. A strong east wind was provided by the Lord to dry the sea bottom, and they went through on dry ground in the morning.

Forward movement never runs along the lines of sight – but faith alone, for the just shall live by Faith.

Progress may lead us through some difficult experiences this coming year, but God is big enough for them all. He is the miracle worker and will not fail those who trust in Him. Jesus said: *“My sheep hear My Voice and they follow Me.”*

John 10:27: My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:

When He puts forth His sheep, He goes before them and makes a way where there is none. He leads us into green pastures and beside still waters. He restores our soul. He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.



Psalms 23:3-4:

³ He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

This shadow is not death itself. A shadow is scary and looks like the real thing – but the Lord is our Deliverer, even from seeming death.

This forward march is God's call to do more for the Lord than we did last year. We cannot be satisfied on past blessings, past service, and settle where we are. There is much more land around us to be possessed.

God has given us the whole world to reach, and the doors are open — but there are many adversaries or hindrances..

1 Corinthians 16:9: For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.



Just as the waters of the Red Sea marked a line of separation from Egypt, so too water baptism marks our separation from our old life of sin. Paul makes this clear in:

1 Corinthians 10:1-2:

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

Paul said *I would not have you ignorant.*

Romans 6:4-6:

⁴ Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His Resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The church in the wilderness (the Israelites) is like the church today. They had to follow a pillar of fire and a cloud, for that is where the Presence of the Lord was to protect them from the terrible heat of the sun, as the cloud served as a huge umbrella.



Psalms 105:39: He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

He spread a cloud for covering. God provided angels' food. Only where the pillar of fire and the cloud were was there this provision of food.

If we follow the Lord we will be well fed, for they suffered no lack.

Nehemiah 9:21: Yea, forty years didst Thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

God will take care of you, too.

We can have victory if we do what He tells us to do.

The success we enjoy will depend upon our forward movement in obeying the Lord. We can have victory if we do what He tells us to do.

Souls need to be reached with the saving Gospel of Christ. People everywhere need to be saved. The fields are white unto harvest and the doors are wide open. People are fed up with living in sin and being bound with fears and destructive habits.

Some of you are tired of playing church – living on temporary pleasures of the world. Reach out to the Lord and let Him bring you into a fruitful place. Some others need to awake from Zion and from your unconcern over the lost conditions of the world, and start praying the Lord of harvest will send forth laborers into the harvest. Pray – and then help those who are already working in the harvest that they will have their needs met. Arise from your golden calf experience around which you have been singing and dancing.

God was much displeased with the Children of Israel when they did that — and I don't think He thinks any more of our shutting ourselves inside four walls and only wanting to be entertained with singing and music-making.



Some are singing: "Carry me away on snowy white wings", when they are not even fit

to be carried on a pair of old buzzards' wings.

We need to redeem the time, for the days are evil. So many are sitting on their last year's bird-nest experience after being saved and are drying up on the stem.

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You will wear the varnish off the pews if the man of God preaches ten minutes past the hour. You get cold chills when the offering is taken and you say, "*That's all he is out after.*" No wonder the Lord told Moses to order the people to hold their peace and go forward. Shut your mouth and quit bellyaching. In other words, get to doing something!

We are to run with patience the race that is set before us, "*Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.*" Lay aside every weight and the sin that does so easily beset you. These are God's orders — unnecessary weights, habits, and desires we have picked up from the world that are a hindrance to our forward progress.



The Lord tells us to "*Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul*" in:

1 Peter 2:11: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

He tells us again in:

2 Corinthians 7:1: Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

"Let us go on to perfection."

Hebrews 6:1: Therefore leaving the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

We haven't got it made yet! This is the purpose in the Lord's saving us — to be not only the Author of our salvation, but also the Finisher of our faith. We are an unfinished product now, and there is more to be done in us.

We are His workmanship:

Ephesians 2:10: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus

unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.



The next Scripture speaks of the need for Progress.

Hebrews 13:21: Make you perfect in every good work to do His Will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

And again in:

1 Peter 5:10: But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.

I know there are extreme views on living a clean and holy life — people claiming they can never commit sin again. And there are those who say no one can live a life of victory over sin and the devil; that we always have to be sinning in thought, word, and deed.

I believe there is a middle-of-the-road experience that is right in line with the Word of God — and so far from fanaticism as it is from modernism.

We have to lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking. The Lord tells us this in:

We have to lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking.

1 Peter 2:1-3:

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:

³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

That is getting on the move up, and then we must also move forward.

Hosea 6:3: Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Paul says:

Philippians 3:13: Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

True directions
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found in the
Word of God.

How can we move forward unless we know where we have been: Where we are? And where we should be? True directions are clearly found in the Word of God.

Proverbs 3:5-8:

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

⁸ It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Listen to His voice:

Isaiah 30:21: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Mary and Joseph got so wrapped up in their friends and company they lost sight of Jesus. After a day's journey, they finally started looking for Him. They never missed Him all that day until nightfall. They hunted but could not find Him. It took them three days hunting and looking about before they found Him back in Jerusalem in the temple where they left Him. They missed Him just one day, and it took three to find Him; and they lost all that time and progress on the journey, besides the heartache.



If there is anything we want to be sure of, it is that the Lord is with us and in us.

2 Chronicles 15:2: And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but

if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.

The Lord had to forsake those in the wilderness who let unbelief spoil their journey to the Promised Land. Only the younger ones — the youth and the children — made it in, besides Joshua and Caleb. This is no time to be dragging our feet, either! There is no stopping place in God. Let us go on to:

PERFECTION — THAT IS OUR GOAL; HEAVEN IS OUR DESTINATION.

This spiritual progress is a condition of our heart's relationship to Christ. It is inward progress more than outward, and more than physical attainments of offices and positions in a church.

This spiritual progress is a condition of our heart's relationship to Christ.

We need to have our love refined, all selfishness and love of self cast out. We need our faith purified of all doubt, fear, and unbelief. We need our walk of obedience to the Word of God to be more complete and in line.

Many professing Christians only line up to the Word that suits them, and leave undone and unfinished that which chaffs them.

In Closing:

There are many of you who have never made a start to live for the Lord. You are still in the devil's kingdom and bound by sin and bad habits. You need to make a start for the Lord today, for **Today is the Day of Salvation**.

The first part of my text is where to begin. Paul said, "*Not laying again the foundation of repentance and faith and baptism . . .*" This is the STARTING PLACE TO MAKING HEAVEN YOUR HOME, and the starting place into this wonderful new life of being saved. These are the foundation stones of Salvation. You can never be any stronger than the foundation you lay in the Christian experience.

You can never be any stronger than the foundation you lay in the Christian experience.

1. The foundation is repentance of all your sins. It is asking the Lord to forgive you of all the wrongs of the past. Jesus said that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name, beginning at Jerusalem. It began there all right, and we have not left the foundation of our preaching. The Gospel message should never be changed. WE must repent of all our ungodly deeds and forsake our evil ways.

Proverbs 28:13: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

2. Faith toward God is in the foundation, for without faith it is impossible to please God. If you believe in Jesus with your heart and not your head, you can be saved. This heart-faith comes from the Lord only — and only after you repent. ***“For by Grace are ye saved, through Faith, and that faith is not of yourselves. It is the Gift of God.”***

Ephesians 2:8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

3. Faith will cause you to personally receive Jesus as your Saviour, and welcome Him to come by His Spirit into your heart.

Romans 10:10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The doctrine of Baptism. Jesus said:

Mark 16:16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

2 Corinthians 1:22: Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.



He has put His brand upon us — His mark of ownership — and given us His Holy Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee that we belong to Him, and as the first installment of all He is going to give us.

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