

## RED SEA RULE 4: PRAY!

- 1A. Practices – This portion of the study focuses on specific actions that will enable us to move from fear to faith when encountering difficult times.
  - 1B. Red Sea Rule #4: PRAY!
  - 2B. Exodus 14:10
  
- 2A. Seaside Prayers
  - 1B. Some situations offer us just two options—we can either panic or pray. (p. 44)
  - 2B. The Lord wants us to know that prayer is the means by which we can, if we choose, stay even-tempered, self-possessed, cool-headed, and strong-spirited, even in a crisis. (p. 44)
  - 3B. When we can't press forward, move sideward, or step backward, we can look upward and ask God to make a way. (p. 44)
  - 4B. Countless men and women of God have learned this:
    - 1C. Gen. 35:3 – the patriarch Jacob in a time of uncertainty
    - 2C. 2 Sam. 22:7 – David as a fugitive in distress
    - 3C. Psa. 107:28-29 – recounts the Lord's acts of faithful love on behalf of the redeemed
    - 4C. 1 Kgs. 17:20-22 – Elijah cries to the Lord to restore the life of a widow's child
  
  - 5B. "Seaside prayers" are not regular, daily quiet-time prayers, as important as they are, but crisis-time prayers. Prayers of:
    - 1C. importunity – persistence in solicitations or demands
    - 2C. intensity – great energy, strength, concentration, fervor
    - 3C. Prayers during life-threatening or soul-shattering events. (p. 45)
  
  - 6B. Israel's seaside prayers were united, and unfeigned, but unbelieving (p. 45).

7B. **For Discussion:**

Cameron Thompson wrote:

“There comes a time, in spite of our soft, modern ways, when we must be desperate in prayer, when we must wrestle, when we must be outspoken, shameless and importunate... Despite opinions to the contrary, the Bible recognizes such a thing as storming heaven—“praying through.” (Quoted in Red Sea Rules, p. 46)

1. Can you recall an occasion when you were desperate in prayer?
2. If you can share it, please describe the situation, the prayer and God’s answer?

3A. **United and Unfeigned**

1B. There’s something about praying with another person that intensifies prayer and sends it to heaven with greater velocity. (p. 48)

1C. We learn from Exodus 14: 10 that "the children of Israel cried out to the LORD." There was one great united cry, rising from a host of voices, piercing the heavens like a massive signal of distress. (p. 48)

2C. Matt. 18:19 – benefit of united prayer

2B. The Israelites' prayer was not only **united**, but also **unfeigned**. They had never been more earnest.

1B. It wasn't a religious ritual.

2B. They were panicked, and their outburst of prayer was real and raw. (p. 50)

3B. Scriptural examples of earnest or unfeigned prayer

- 1C. Mark 5:22-23 – Jairus asks Jesus to come and heal his daughter
- 2C. Matthew 15:22-23 – the Canaanite woman cries out after Jesus
- 3C. James 5:16 – fervent effectual prayer produces results

4A. Importance of “Believing” Prayer

- 1B. When God, in His grace and mercy, answered the cry of the Israelites alongside the sea, it wasn't because they expected Him to. (p. 51)

Note: Exodus 14:11

- 2B. Look at the way the passage unfolds: "The children of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, 'Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?'" (Exodus 14:10-11).

- 1C. They prayed, but they didn't imagine that God would actually answer their prayer. (p. 51)
- 2C. Thomas Watson, the Puritan writer, said, "Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow; it feathers the arrow of prayer, and makes it fly swifter, and pierce the throne of grace."

- 3B. Another illustration: Acts 12:3-16 – The church prays urgently, unitedly and unfeignly for Peter's release from prison; but the text indicates that they did not believe that God had answered their prayer.

- 4B. When you face impossible odds, pray urgently, unfeignedly, unitedly. And trust (believe in) the great prayer-answering God who grants mercy and imparts grace to help in time of need. (p. 52)