

Red Sea Rule #6

- 1A. PRACTICES – Specific actions that will enable us to move from fear to faith when encountering difficult times.
 - 1B. PRAYER: “Pray!” (Rule #4)
 - 2B. PATIENCE: “Stay calm and confident, and give God time to work. (Rule #5)
 - 3B. PROGRESSION: “When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.” (Rule #6)

- 2A. FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE: Exodus 14:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.”

- 3A. DAY BY DAY
 - 1B. C. H. Mackintosh, 19th century Bible expositor, wrote, “God never gives guidance for two steps at a time. I must take one step, and then I get light for the next. This keeps the heart in abiding dependence upon God.” (p. 67)
 - 2B. Mackintosh wrote that the Red Sea did not divide throughout all at once, but opened progressively as Israel move forward, so that they needed to trust God for each fresh step.” (p. 67)
 - 3B. It is axiomatic (i.e., self-evident, obvious) that God generally leads His children **step-by-step**, provides for us **day by day**, and cares for us **moment by moment**. (p. 67)
 - 1C. Neh. 9:19 (TLB)
 - 2C. Psa. 42:8 (TLB)
 - 3C. Luke 11:3
 - 4C. 2 Cor. 4:16
 - 4B. **FOR DISCUSSION:** In Rule #5, we studied the concept of standing still and waiting on the Lord to work. Rule #6 tells us to move on by taking the next logical step. Do you see a contradiction? Why or why not?

4A. STEP BY STEP

- 1B. When encountering difficult times, we may not be able to tackle the whole of each problem at once, but we can get off dead center by figuring out the next step regarding each issue at hand. (p. 70)
- 2B. We're never sure what will happen a year from now. But the next step is often more or less obvious if we'll think about it. (p. 71)
- 3B. So in facing any vexing problem, make up your mind prayerfully to take the next logical step by faith. (p. 71)
- 4B. Illustration: Eliezer's statement in **Gen. 24:27** regarding how God had led him to Rebekah in fulfillment of his mission to find a bride for Isaac.

27 and said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld his kindness and faithfulness from my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."
- 5B. When you don't know what to do next, cast out fear and seek light for the next step. Trust God for guidance in small increments; and if you can't see what lies dimly in the distance, do what lies clearly at hand. (p. 73)
- 6B. **FOR DISCUSSION:** How far in advance does God usually reveal His will in your life? Can you describe an example of this that comes to mind, possibly one that involved a time of difficulty, challenge, or crisis?

5A. MOMENT BY MOMENT

- 1B. At the moment of greatest perplexity for the children of Israel, the Red Sea divided for them and they took their first hesitant steps into the midst of the piled-up waters, timidly testing the sea floor and finding it a highway of hope—one that had to be traveled step by step, moment by moment (p. 75).
- 2B. God, wanting us to be trees planted by rivers of water and bearing fruit in season, grows us a bit at a time, from seed to sprout to seedling to sapling, through rain and wind and storm. (p. 75)

- 3B. We must not doubt in the darkness what God has shown us in the light. We must not collapse when faced with adversity. (p. 76)
- 4B. Following God's will isn't a matter of unveiling, but unfolding. (p. 76)
- 5B. The One who know the faraway future reveals each close-at-hand step as needed. (p. 76)
- 6B. **FOR DISCUSSION:** Can you think of the next logical step you should take in a situation you are facing? If so, jot it down along with a schedule for implementing it.