

FEAR NOT

ADVENT 2023

Trusting God One Promise at a Time

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for his glory and their good.

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Exodus 13:20-22

After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.



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We have to recognize that God is telling a larger story than the difficult scene we're in right now. (14:4)

Exodus 14:4

“And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.”

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We have to recognize that God is “stirring up our nest” in love, not cruelty. (Deut 32:10-11)

Deuteronomy 32:10-11

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.



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When the fearful situation hits, we may lash out at others with snarky words or hostile actions. (14:11)

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When the fearful situation hits, we may get disoriented and forget the promises of God. (3:16-17)

Exodus 3:16-17

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob appeared to me and said: "I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites . . . a land flowing with milk and honey."

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We will be instructed to present ourselves to the God who is present to us. (14:13b; Isa 41:10)

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

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We will be instructed to present ourselves to the God who is present to us. (14:13b; Isa 41:10)

We will be instructed to be still and watch God work on our behalf like a master craftsman. (14:13c-14)

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We will be able to celebrate what God does in us, for us, and through us when we take that step. (15:1-21)

Exodus 15:1-2

“I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

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We will be prepared to take greater steps of faith in new and more challenging scenes. (Josh 3:8, 15-17)



**Original
Spiritual
Comfort
Zone**

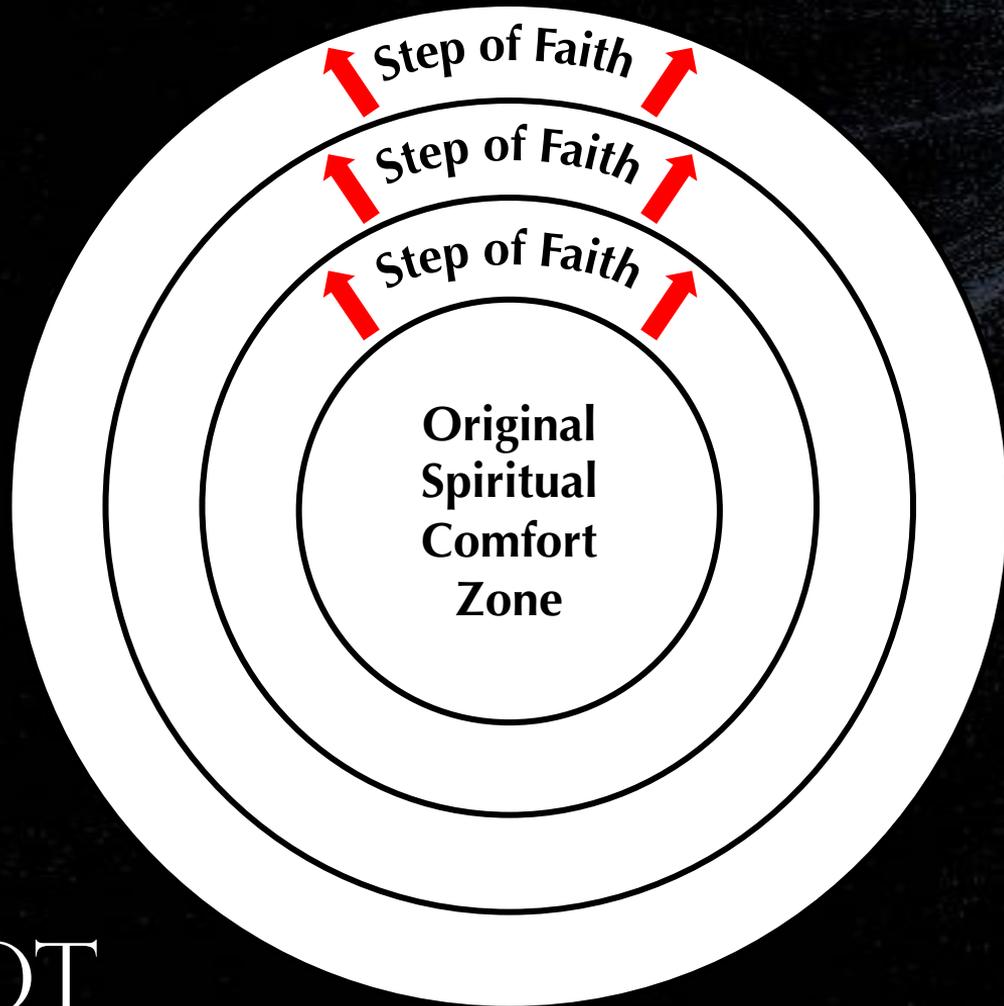
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**A New and
Enlarged Spiritual
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The more we trust God with our fears, the more we will participate in his plan to recapture the world.



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