

Exodus 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Analysis

God's question 'Wherefore criest thou unto me?' seems surprising after telling them to cry out (verse 10). The issue isn't prayer but paralysis—they're praying instead of obeying. The command 'speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward' requires movement toward the sea despite no visible path. Faith obeys before seeing the way. This distinguishes genuine faith (obedient action) from mere religious emotion (paralyzed praying).

Historical Context

This rebuke shows prayer can become avoidance of obedience. Israel was called to move toward the sea while Moses enacted the miracle. Faith requires both prayer and obedient action.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has extended prayer become an excuse to avoid obedient action God has already commanded?
2. What 'sea' is God telling you to move toward despite seeing no path through?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּא תַּצְאַע בְּרֵבָרְךָ מִשְׁהָ מִתְּאַמֵּר יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִים
said And the LORD unto Moses Wherefore criest thou unto me speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward
H559 H3068 H413 H4872 H4100 H6817 H413
H1696 H1121 H3478 H5265

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 7:10 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Nehemiah 9:9 (Parallel theme): And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and hearest their cry by the Red sea;

Exodus 17:4 (References Lord): And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.