



When You Cannot
Go Forward, Stand
Still and Trust God

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Pulpit Manuscript • Pastor Joshua L. Yeager | Text: Exodus 14:13–14 (KJV) | Theme / Central Burden

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New Hope Baptist Church • Sunday Morning, May 31, 2026

Text: Exodus 14:13–14 (KJV)

Theme / Central Burden

When God's people are boxed in, pressed down, and humanly helpless, the answer is not panic, compromise, or fleshly strength. The answer is to fear not, stand still, and trust the Lord to do what only He can do. The same God who opened the Red Sea still makes a way for His people, and the greatest deliverance of all is found in Christ, who saves from sin, judgment, and the enemy of our souls.

Sermon Outline

- I. The Problem — Israel Was Trapped — Exodus 14:10
 - The sea was in front
 - Pharaoh was behind
 - Fear was in the camp
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- II. The First Word — Fear Ye Not — Exodus 14:13
 - Fear clouds faith
 - Fear magnifies the enemy
 - Fear forgets God
 -
- III. The Second Word — Stand Still — Exodus 14:13
 - Stop striving in the flesh
 - Stop running ahead of God
 - Stand in obedience
 -
- IV. The Third Word — See the Salvation of the LORD — Exodus 14:13
 - Salvation is the Lord's work
 - God can do what man cannot
 - Deliverance belongs to Him
 -
- V. The Promise — The LORD Shall Fight For You — Exodus 14:14
 - God is not absent
 - God is not late
 - God is not defeated

Introduction

Imagine being cornered at the edge of the sea. Behind you is the army that wants to destroy you. Before you is impossible water. On either side there is no escape. Humanly speaking, the situation is over. There is no plan B, no backup route, no clever strategy, no last-minute rescue from man. It is the kind of moment where fear rises fast and faith feels small.

That is exactly where Israel stood at the Red Sea. They had come out of Egypt, but now Egypt was coming for them. The people could see the dust cloud of Pharaoh's army. They could hear the thunder of iron chariots. They could feel the weight of hopelessness. And in that dark moment, Moses did not give them a pep talk. He gave them a word from God: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD."

That is not just a Red Sea message. That is a Sunday message. That is a message for the believer who feels trapped. That is a message for the sinner who knows he cannot save himself. That is a message for every heart that has come to the end of itself. When man cannot, God can. When the path is closed, God can open a way. When the enemy is near, the Lord is still on the throne.



Opening Movement: Boxed In, Called Upward

Beloved, there are times in life when the child of God comes to a place where he cannot fix it, cannot force it, and cannot fight it through in his own strength. He has done everything he knows to do, and still the problem stands there like a wall. That is where Israel stood in Exodus 14.

They had been brought out of Egypt by the mighty hand of God. They were no longer in Pharaoh's house, but Pharaoh was not finished with them yet. And when they came to the Red Sea, they found themselves in what looked like a dead end. The water was before them, the enemy was behind them, and panic was spreading through the camp.

That is where Moses spoke the word of the Lord: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." In that sentence there is a rebuke, a command, and a promise. The rebuke confronts fear; the command arrests frantic self-effort; the promise fixes our eyes on the Lord's saving power. This threefold word does not deny the reality of the sea or the closeness of the chariots; it declares the greater reality of the Lord who reigns above both. The narrative invites us to exchange our tunnel vision for a Godward gaze, to reinterpret the geography of impossibility as a theater for divine action.

I. Fear Ye Not — Exodus 14:13

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not..."

First, he said, "Fear ye not." Fear is a terrible master. Fear will make a giant out of a problem and make God seem small. Fear will make a man forget what God has already done. Fear will always talk louder than faith if you let it.

Israel had seen the plagues in Egypt. They had watched the blood on the doorposts. They had marched out under divine protection. They had already witnessed the hand of God, and yet now fear was trying to erase all that.

And is that not how it is with us? We can sing about God's power on Sunday, then panic on Monday. We can testify that the Lord saved us by grace, then tremble like God has gone silent when the next trial comes. But the word from heaven is still the same: "Fear ye not."

Fear not, because your circumstances do not cancel God. Fear not, because the enemy is not stronger than the Lord. Fear not, because the Red Sea is never bigger than the God who made it. To fear not is not to feel nothing; it is to refuse fear's rule by remembering who God is, rehearsing His past faithfulness, and resting in His present promises.

II. Stand Still — Exodus 14:13

"...stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."

Then Moses said, "Stand still." That does not mean careless laziness. It means stop striving in the flesh. Stop trying to do God's job for Him. Stop running in circles and calling it wisdom. Stop leaning on the arm of flesh when the arm of the Lord is stretched out in power.

There are moments when the most spiritual thing a believer can do is stand still in obedience. Stand still and refuse to quit. Stand still and refuse to compromise. Stand still and refuse to take matters into your own hands. Stand still and let God be God.

Many times, when we think we must rush ahead, God says wait. When we think we must fight in our own strength, God says trust Me. When we think we must figure everything out, God says stand still. Stillness here is not passivity but posture: a yielded heart ready to receive orders from the Captain of our salvation. The Red Sea moment is a school for souls where we relearn dependence, where our frantic calculations fall silent so that faith may hear the command to move when God opens the way.

III. See the Salvation of the LORD — Exodus 14:13

"...and see the salvation of the LORD..."

Then Moses said, "and see the salvation of the LORD." Notice whose salvation it is. It is not the salvation of Moses. It is not the salvation of Israel's military power. It is not the salvation of clever strategy. It is the salvation of the LORD.

That means God gets the glory. That means God gets the credit. That means when the waters part and the path opens and the enemy is swallowed up, no man can boast. All they can do is say, "The LORD did it."

And that is how God still saves. He saves sinners by grace, not by merit. He saves the helpless, not the self-righteous. He saves the guilty, not the proud. He saves those who know they cannot save themselves.

There is a great gospel picture here. Israel stood powerless before the sea, and the Lord made a way through judgment waters. That points us to Christ, because every sinner stands helpless before sin, death, and judgment. We cannot wash our own guilt away. We cannot cross over by our own strength. But God sent His Son, and through the cross and the empty tomb, He made a way where there was no way. Therefore our response is worship, witness, and willing obedience, for the One who saves also shepherds through the sea.



IV. The LORD Shall Fight For You — Exodus 14:14

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

Then Moses added, "The LORD shall fight for you." That is enough right there.

The battle belongs to the Lord. He is not wringing His hands. He is not pacing heaven. He is not nervous about what Pharaoh will do. The Lord is able to defend His people.

And listen, child of God, the Lord still fights for His own. He fights through providence. He fights through restraint. He fights through opened doors and shut doors. He fights through circumstances we cannot understand until later. He fights in ways that leave no doubt that the victory came from Him.

That does not mean the believer never has to walk forward. Israel still had to go through the sea. But when they moved, they moved on a path God had made. The step of faith came after the word of God. And the same is true for us. We do not sit idle in unbelief. We obey God by faith, and He makes the way. Courage, then, is not bravado but obedience timed to God's leading; confidence is not self-assurance but assurance that the Captain fights for His people and finishes what He begins.



Gospel Appeal / Invitation and Benediction

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him..."

Now let me bring this to the heart.

There may be someone listening who is standing at the edge of your own Red Sea. You are trapped by sin, burdened by guilt, and afraid of what lies ahead. You know you cannot save yourself. That is good news, because salvation has never been from man anyway. "The LORD shall fight for you." Christ died for sinners. Christ rose again. Christ saves to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him.

If you are lost, do not try to cross the sea in your own strength. Come to Christ. Trust Him. Repent of your sin. Call upon the Lord. He is able to save.

And for the believer who is weary, fearful, and pressed on every side, hear the word of God again: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." The same God who opened the sea is not dead today. He is still working. He is still faithful. He is still able.

Benediction

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Go in the strength of the LORD.

New Hope Baptist Church • Pastor Joshua L. Yeager • Sunday, May 31, 2026

Fear ye not. Stand still. Trust God.



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Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day... The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. (Exodus 14:13–14, KJV)

Holy Bible, King James Version