1 - **When To Stand & When To Go Forward**

*A study in Bible Authority*

**Exodus 14:13-18**

2 - **Context of Exodus 14**

Israelites have just fled from Egypt after God had showed His power in the plagues.

* **Pharaoh and his army are in pursuit**. (vs. 5-9)
* **Question**: why do we turn against God in times of adversity? (vs. 10-12)
* **Question**: how do we prevent ourselves from becoming so short-sighted? Are we listening? Do we believe? (Exodus 4:29-31; 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:8-10)

3 - **“Stand by & See the Salvation” Exodus 14:13**

**When God has not spoken… we must wait for Him to reveal Himself.** (Matthew 7:21-23)

***“Behold I thought…”*** (2 Kings 5:11; Acts 15:1, 7, 24; Jeremiah 10:23)

***“While you keep silent”*** (vs. 14; cf., 1 Peter 4:11)

God expects His servants to **wait and listen** for His instructions. (1 Samuel 3:10)

* King Saul couldn’t wait. (1 Samuel 13)
* Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, etc. waited.

4 - **“Stand by & See the Salvation”**

We must wait through **trials and tribulations** for our hope. (Psalms 27; Job 12:3, 15; 23:3-5; 40:4; 42:1-6)

While we are **waiting**, we are to be **learning**, **growing**, **working**… (Psalms 25:1-5; 37:27-34;
2 Peter 3:10-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-15)

**“Stand”** - ready to act, awaiting further instructions. (1 Peter 1:13)

5 - **“Go Forward”**

**When God directs or commands**, we must be ready to respond by faith.

* **Don’t be like the Israelites**. (Deuteronomy 1:21-32; 1 Samuel 17)
* **Don’t be like Balaam** hoping for a different answer! (Numbers 22:19, 34)

6 - **“Go Forward”**

How does God tell us to “go forward”?

* Respond to God’s **direct (imperative) commands**. (Note the word ***“Let”…*** means “**Must**”;
cf., Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thess. 5:6-8; Heb. 4:11; 6:1)
* Follow **scriptural examples**… (Philippians 4:9;
1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 3:2)
* Respond to **necessary conclusions**. (Acts 20:7; Exodus 20:8)

7 - **“Go Forward”**

The role of endurance in “going forward”.

* **We will suffer persecution**. (2 Timothy 3:12;
1 Peter 4:12)
* We are **saved through endurance**. (Luke 21:19; Hebrews 10:36; James 1:3-4)
* **Depend on/ Trust in God**. (Deuteronomy 8:2ff; Proverbs 3:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
* **How long?** (Psalms 13:1-2; 35:17; Revelation 6:10)

8 - **Stand Still or Go Forward?**

We need to wait to listen to God and do His will and not our own!

We need to respect the silence of God’s word as much as what He revealed.

We need to keep working, learning and growing while we wait for Him to come again.

We need to respect the authority of His word and walk by faith.