

**Sermon:** Between Rock and a Hard Place

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 14 & 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

**1. God planned to lead the people of Israel through rough and difficult terrain (for a purpose)**

- (a) God took them through a long route than a very short route (Exodus 13:17-22)
- (b) God brought them to a place of no escape—hard and a rock place, hemmed them in, tightened the noose, end of the cliff, etc.

**2. The people of Israel only saw the situation around, but failed to see God’s plan (10-12)**

- (a) They saw the Pharaoh and his army
- (b) They feared greatly—fear energizes or demoralizes. The former propels us to act and later makes us to compromise. In the midst of fear, one tends to run

**3. God’s plan was to build their faith when they were between “rock and a hard place” (13-30)**

- (a) Stop fearing (verse 13)—the use of (*'al*) with the jussive has the force of “stop fearing.” It is a more immediate negative command
- (b) Stand firm (verse 13)
- (c) See the salvation/deliverance (verse 13)

**4. The imminent death and apparent insecurity were God’s platform to reveal His power (verse 31)**

- (a) They saw (sensory seeing, perceptive seeing, and intellectual seeing)
- (b) They feared
- (c) They believed (they became convinced that he would save them in the future)

**5. Apostle Paul faced hardships (2 Corinthians 1:3-11)**

- (a) Ailment, persecution, or emotional distress?
- (b) Under great pressure, far beyond his ability to endure, so that he despaired even his life (verse 8)—to be at loss psychologically
- (c) Lost hope of living (verse 9)—sentence of death
- (d) Misunderstood (1:12-2:4)
- (e) Hurt by an *individual* (2:5-11)
- (f) Harassed (cf. 7:5)

**6. When Apostle Paul was hurt, he looks to God (verse 9)**

- (a) “This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead”
- (b) “He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us”

**7. Paul teaches how God alone is the Savior in any situation (verse 10)**

- (a) Hurts happen when expectations are placed on humans and materials
- (b) Paul says, “On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us”

**8. Take Away**

Suspend all your strivings if you are between rock and a hard place and let God to bring out His plan