

"And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way." Numbers 21:4 KJV



Israel focused on their surroundings rather than on their God; on their lack instead of their faithful supply; on present condition rather than their destination and they became discontent! Sure life has turmoil. Jesus said it would. *"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* Even if your ship is filling and sinking, instead of trying to master your tempest, walk with the Master of the tempest! *"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And [Jesus] was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto him, 'Master, carest thou not that we perish?' And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still.' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And He said unto them, 'Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, 'What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'"* Which way are you going? The way of Truth or the way of that *"which seemeth right?"* Are your soul's feet on the way of self-gratification or the way of Truth? We are the happiest when looking for something when we find it! The way of righteousness is always satisfying to those seeking it, but for the rest, there will only be discouragement. If God doesn't satisfy your soul, then you are not seeking Him. Christ said of His Words, *"Happy are ye if ye do them."* He had just finished washing the disciple's dusty feet, and said, *"I have given you an example."* You must go outside of self-interest to find happiness. Meeting the needs of others leaves no room for self-pity. Outside of physical pain, mean, grumpy, or unhappy people are usually just self-centered. The believer must deny the way of impulse and lust, and walk in the carefully mapped *"paths of righteousness"* by obeying God's Word. When alone, what do you do? What do you think about? It's easy to complain about the journey if you forget your travel companion. If your destination is pleasure, you will perish in the *"Wilderness of Sin. When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* It's hard to keep the inside of an empty glass clean in a dust storm unless it is full of clean water. The same is true of your mind. Fill it with the clean water of God's Word and the dust of the world will have no place. *"Sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."* Jesus said, *"Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."* Keep your mind on your destination and you'll never be discouraged!

When pain and stress cut like a knife,
Do not despair of Truth or life,
You'll walk with peace, the storm and tide,
When you have Jesus by your side. ~CGP

When Peter focused on the storm, he sank into it. He cried to Jesus, *"and immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"* When sinking, call on the Master who ever walks beside you and your tempests will be of little consequence. When they got where they were going, the storm was no more! *"And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased."*

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV