

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.” Exodus 14:21-22 (NIV)

Not to take away from the fantastic miracle that this is. Its awesome that God made the land dry for his people to pass over it safely. But reading this passage again I wonder how strong that wind was for it to have moved the water that way. Obviously it was localised, just covering the section of the Red Sea that the Israelites were about to cross, but I have a couple of thoughts about the water. First of all, I have always assumed that the land was dry and that the water just stayed there but it crossed my mind today that perhaps the wind was still blowing at the crossing and it was the sudden stopping of the wind that made the waters return in place killing the Egyptian soldiers. If this was the case, it makes me wonder whether God was smartening His strengthening work in His people at that point. To either walk with a strong wind against you or pushing you onwards takes strength to keep control of your own movements. I'm probably overthinking it a bit, but we know that sometimes God makes us go through stuff to strengthen us in our faith and perhaps there was a physical strengthening happening as well, considering what the future of the people held.

All inferences and crazy theories aside, this does raise a point. Most of us remember the story of the crossing of the Red Sea from Sunday School and so we know that it was a miracle and was an outward sign of God's faithfulness to His people, but perhaps, even if it is a crazy theory, we should look at what that strengthening and testing means for us.

First of all, God doesn't promise us an easy life. Many of us struggle in some way. Our struggles may be tiny or massive when compared to others' issues, but they are all significant to us and worthy of bringing to God in prayer. I believe that God wants to not just help us to be strengthened in faith, but also in physical, mental and emotional ways too. Sometimes these things that make us stronger give us testimonies that help others to notice there's something different about us as God's children. I cant remember the exact quote, but I remember Joyce Meyer talking about the fact you have to go through tests to have a testimony, otherwise you just have the 'moanies'. At the time of the difficulty, while we are attempting to keep ourselves upright with the oncoming wind trying to blow us backwards, if we struggle on we will grow stronger in that area and the next time we struggle like that it will feel just that little bit easier.

Is your struggle losing weight? You aren't eating badly and you're exercising but just cant lose the weight? If so, just remember there are many ways for carrying 'excess weight' and they aren't always to do with diet and exercise, but if it's your goal to lose weight then bring it to God, you may discover that its only physical fitness that's important for you and your weight doesn't change much if at all. What about waiting for some other type of breakthrough? Improved health, healing, conception, discipline, etc? The list is endless. Sometimes its a case of God knows best and the answer is a straight 'no', but sometimes it is something you'll get if you continue to pray in faith and get yourself ready (tidy the house? Stop putting God in second place? Get an income? Open up about your struggles with another person so you have someone else to pray with?) even if it isn't, never give up praying. Whatever we go through we have to make a choice to praise God regardless of anything else.

Pray;

Lord of the struggles and the amazing, joy filled experiences, we come to you today, asking for those things we have been praying for for many years to come too pass and we thank you for the strengthening experiences we have had to go through and my still be going through while we await your answer. Just as you showed the Israelites your faithfulness by parting the Red Sea, please show us your faithfulness to us as we struggle to come to terms with the way our lives may be that much more difficult than those around us. Forgive us for when we have failed to remember you in the good times and the storms of life. Amen.