

# Living Day By Day By Faith

## (Exodus 16:1-5, 11-12)

### Introduction.

**Spinning plates story.** A few years ago, Charissa and I travel to Branson, Missouri to meet and reconnect with old friends. We did the whole Branson thing – eating out, condo, playing cards and, of course, a show or two. One surprisingly enjoyable show was the Chinese Acrobats from Beijing. They were amazing – flexible, strong, agile.

During the show one of the acrobats did the old spinning plate trick . . . . (describe event).

As I sat there, I realized that the spinning plates illustrated how my life feels sometimes. Hurry here. Hurry there. Keep this plate spinning. Keep that plate spinning.

Through a series of events, I was reminded of the simple truth – God wants us to live life Day-By-Day-By-Faith.

**God's expectation has always been that His people live day-by-day-by-faith.** Notice a story from the nation of Israel – the story of God's provisions for them following their emancipation from Egyptian slavery.

The story is amazing. Due to severe famine, the descendents of Abraham, the patriarch of the nation of Israel, moved to Egypt for sheer survival. Initially, they were welcomed as guests, but over the course of several centuries, they became slaves. Their lives were hard and they felt God had forgotten about them. After hundreds of years of slavery, God raised up a leader named Moses to rescue the people. Through a series of miraculous events, the Egyptian government released the Hebrew people to return to their homeland and reoccupy it. However, the journey back to their homeland was across the desert plains of North Africa. At that time, scholars estimate that between 1 million and 3 million people comprised the nation of Israel and attempted that journey through that barren desert.

God chose to guide them supernaturally, protect them supernaturally, and provide for physically needs supernaturally.

For food he provided quail in the evening and manna in the mornings.

Manna was first called “bread from heaven.” Later Israelites called it manna. The word manna meant, “What is it?” That was because they had never seen anything like it.

Let’s read God’s instruction concerning the manna in Exodus 16:1-5 and 11 and learn WHY we must live day-by-day-by-faith.

### **Read Exodus 16:1-5, 11-12.**

The story of God’s provision of manna to Israel is not really a story about bread, **but rather a story in living by faith.** It was a story about dependence on God.

**How do I know that?** Check out Exodus 16: 12. The point of this whole incident was “the glory of God.” To live daily by faith is one of the most significant ways his people can glorify God today!!

Having said that, **WHAT DOES LIVING DAY-BY-DAY-BY-FAITH LOOK LIKE?** To live day-by-day-by-faith is to approach each day with the attitude that God is the ultimate source of all things necessary for life and that he supplies everything you need to live according to His plan for you.

Living day-by-day-by faith includes a confidence in God’s sovereignty, God’s wisdom, God’s provisions, and God’s person.

Let’s see what we can learn from an ancient, but true story about living by faith.

## **I. What Effect Will Living Day-By-Day-By-Faith Have?**

- A) Living Day-By-Day by Faith Elevates Our Focus (16:2-4)

Suddenly, everything that once was so *grievous*

to them was now *glamorous*.

People who live day by day by faith have no room for complaining in their lives because their outlook has changed.

B) Living Day-By-Day by Faith **Expresses Our Obedience** (16:4)

C) Living Day-By-Day by Faith **Enhances Our Faith** (16:6-12)

D) Living Day-By-Day by Faith **Exposes Our Source** (16:13-16)

E) Living Day-By-Day by Faith **Eliminates Our Clutter** (16:16-18)

I ran across a report that was released by the Self Storage Association, a trade group charged with monitoring these self-storage facilities that are popping up all over the place. They say that the country now possesses about 2 billion square feet of personal storage space outside of the home. Last year alone saw a 24 percent spike in the number of self-storage units on the market. But, amazingly, as the amount of storage space required by homeowners has grown, so has the average size of the American house. In fact, the National Association of Homebuilders reports that the average American house grew from 1,660 square feet in 1973 to 2,400 square feet in 2004. So houses got bigger, average family sizes got smaller, and yet we still need to tack on almost two billion square feet of extra space to store our stuff? This frees us from greed and materialism. Living day by day by faith simplifies our lifestyle.

F) Living Day-By-Day by Faith **Establishes Our Priorities** (16:22-27)

## Illustration

**Conversation With Ruby Haynes About Living Day-By-Day-By-Faith.** As I sat across the breakfast table from Ruby, I sensed very quickly that was sizing me up. After all, I planned to marry her oldest granddaughter and Ruby wanted to see if I was adequate. We talked about a variety of things including family; life in Rush Springs, Oklahoma; flowers; church; etc.

Suddenly, she looked at me and declared, “your generation just does not know how to live by faith!”

Stunned, I asked her to explain.

Ruby told of earlier years when Ike, her husband was between jobs. Times were tough! Everyday, Ike would gather his lunch pail and go downtown looking for work. He didn't care what it was and he didn't care how long it lasted – he needed a job to provide for his family. Ruby recounted how day after day, they did not know where their next meal would come from, but God faithfully provided opportunity after opportunity to work on a farm, for a local businessman, or a local contractor. Every day, God provided what their family needed.

Ruby summed it up this way. Those were hard times, but some of the sweetest times with God. We trusted God every day to provide for us and your generation does not understand that.

Well, I expressed my disagreement with her. I rebutted that on any given day, I could be fired – no job security. On any given day, I could be involved in an automobile accident – no one's future is secure. Needless to say, Grandmother Ruby did not see things my way and we agreed to disagree.

Many times that conversation has crossed my mind and a flood of questions comes to mind. Am I really supposed to live day-by-day-by-faith? How do you harmonize living-day-by-day-by-faith with the idea of planning for the future? Does living day-by-day-by-faith harmonize with a 401k? Social Security? Does living day-by-day-by-faith work for someone who is not living in poverty?

But living day-by-day-by-faith is not limited to financial provision. Whatever big question mark there is out there in your future . . . will my kids be safe? . . . will my kids turn out all right? . . . will my marriage last? . . . will America survive the current economic downturn? . . . will my health hold up? . . . will my job

still be there tomorrow? . . . will I even be able to retire ? . . . will terrorists eventually be successful again in striking America? .

. . . Wow Do I sound like a negative Nancy or what?

Certainly, I don't know the answers to all of those questions.

But, I do know that if we live day-by-day-by- faith, we will be able to negotiate whatever circumstance comes our way successfully.

## **How Do I Live Day-By-Day-By-Faith?**

- A) Readily Acknowledge Your Inability to Thrive On Your Own (16:2-4)
- B) Purposefully Commit Each Day to Him
- C) Intentionally Recognize God's Daly Provision for Life
- D) Specifically Shift Your Focus to God
- E) Diligently Assign Credit to God for Everything

## **Conclusion**

Someone here is thinking, but pastor, that's the same advise that any secular counselor gives. What make your message any different than theirs?

The difference is the spiritual element. They only give you half of the truth. They tell you to live "day-by-day". When in reality you must live "Day-By-Day-By-Faith" holding to the reality of a sovereign God managing everything. Without the spiritual element, you will get what you can do. With the spiritual element, you get what God can do!!

Today, God has spoken to some of you about living "Day-By-Day-By-Faith." You're tired of trying to figure-out, control, and sustain everything.

Truth be known, you feel like the circus performer that is trying to keep numerous plates spinning on sticks. You're trying your best to keep everything going. Maybe you need to turn the plates over to God, and let him spin them a while.

Maybe, there is someone here today that would like to turn the spinning plates over to God, but you don't know Him. Let me tell you how to know Him.

### **Present Plan of Salvation**

How will you respond to God today? In a moment we will have a time of response. The musicians will take their places and lead the congregation in a song. If you sense God prompting you to respond to His message today, come forward . . .