

## **Turn North!**

Routines are a part of life, and whether or not we like to admit it, the most spontaneous among us ultimately seek them out!

Convenience, way of ensuring important things get done, that's how I have always done it

Morning coffee, favorite shows, grocery/laundry day, bedtimes, when we shower, when, where and what we eat, life rapidly ends up feeling very **programmed**.

**Routine:** def. **Noun.** *a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program; **Adj.** performed as part of a regular procedure rather than for a special reason.*

**Syn:** habit, schedule, procedure, practice, pattern, drill, regimen, groove

Spiritually, routines can be very helpful, but there is a danger built in: mindless repetition replaces engagement!

Routines of sin can mean the death of all that was redeemed and lovely in the life of a believer.

"Circling the mountain": doing something tedious or unproductive, and being either unwilling/unable to change course.

"North!"

## **Deuteronomy 2:3**

<sup>3</sup>'You have circled this mountain long enough. *Now* turn north

This word is God calling Israel off of the well-worn path they had walked for forty years.

When it comes to His beloved people and their deliverance, it is really not out of character at all for God to do just that.

## **Genesis 12:1-3**

**12** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

## **Exodus 14:13**

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever.

When Israel first came to Egypt, it was the land of their deliverance. Stay too long, and it becomes a place of slavery.

## **Hebrews 11:29**

<sup>29</sup> By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

Everything that reminded them of the life they lived in bondage was destroyed by God, down to the last chariot.

What is more, there was a sea of red- the very blood of Christ- between them and the land of their captivity.

What was before them? The land of promise! Given by God, but still to be possessed. There was a lot of life still to live!

Who is willing to depart from all you have known, to heed God's call, and to turn North into a new season in the Spirit?