

# EXODUS: GOD'S WAY FORWARD

## Following the Cloud

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

<sup>36</sup>In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; <sup>37</sup>but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. <sup>38</sup>So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels. (Exodus 40:34-38)

### Why is this so hard for us?

- We'd rather lead than follow

... whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; <sup>37</sup>but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. (Exodus 40:36b,37)

Brian Dodd

What we need are yielded **followers** who are conduits of the Spirit's power to bring people into the presence and kingdom of God . . . In short what we need is **followership**, not leadership. The leaders we need must model how to follow after Christ, to live under Christ's rule, to become more like Jesus in trusting dependency upon God.

As we make the shift to a posture of following, we give up on good ideas and hunger for God's ideas. When we have fully understood the bankruptcy of life in the flesh, when we have died to confidence in ourselves apart from God, when we have become disgusted with what our self-willed initiatives produce, we find ourselves hungry for God's guidance and direction.

- We'd rather take control than humble ourselves

<sup>35</sup>Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:35)

<sup>19</sup>*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. (Acts 3:19)*

Frank Bartleman

The depth of revival will be determined exactly by the depth of the spirit of repentance.

In that old building [Azusa Street], with its low rafters and bare floors, God took strong men and women to pieces, and put them together again, for His glory. It was a tremendous overhauling process: Pride and self-assertion, self-importance and self-esteem, could not survive there.

## But what if . . .

- **We were free from carrying the pressure ourselves?**

<sup>28</sup>*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (JESUS, Matthew 11:28)*

- **We were free to simply focus on Jesus?**

<sup>9</sup>*God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Corinthians 1:9)*

<sup>3</sup>*But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (II Corinthians 11:3 NASB)*

**"Follow me!"**

*(JESUS, John 21:19b)*