Paul Phillips: 910-470-0870

Real Change Takes Time and Patience

November 6, 2026

1. Building leadership muscles

2. Detaching from old loves

3. Taking the "roundabout way"

"When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea" - Exodus 13:17-18a

"Although we may feel invincible (based on our earlier triumphs), God knows that we are not. He knows that if we were to experience any real dangers, toils and snares, we wouldn't be ready for them. One of the main lessons we learn during this stage of the spiritual journey is that God is not in any particular hurry to get us to the Promised Land. He is much more concerned about the transforming work he is doing in us to prepare us for greater responsibilities of freedom living. Onlookers may observe our journey and, like Pharaoh, think we are just wandering around aimlessly, but God knows what he is doing; he is concerned about strengthening our faith so that we are prepared when there are real challenges to be faced." – Ruth Haley Barton

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Questions

1. What's your level of patience when dealing with people who need to change? What about patience in dealing with the change you want to see in yourself?

2. How might the LORD be using your current circumstances to build your leadership muscle?

3. List two of the most powerful false gods in our current culture. Why is it so hard to break away from them?

4. Have you experienced God leading you in a "roundabout way" – When? How might you need to lead people in a "roundabout way" rather than by the shortest route

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