Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 9:

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 9. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

“But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses,” Exodus 9:12. Here for the first time it is said that the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart. God had said that He would do it in Exodus 4:21 and Exodus 7:3. Here is the fulfillment. It is said six times before that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 7:13, 7:22, 8:15, 8:19, 8:32, 9:7). God’s hardening of Pharaoh’s heart was the strengthening of what he had already set himself towards.

Hardening is the result of disobedience to the Divine. Pharaoh was unyielding, resistant, rebellious, and sinful. And his response grew in intensity. Pharaoh resisted God’s grace and God gave him up to his own heart lusts. Unbelief grew in his heart. Pharaoh sealed his own fate. The plagues were intended to soften Pharaoh’s heart if he would willingly yield to the Lord. God will show Pharaoh that there is no one on the earth like the Lord. God’s justice will break the heart of the hard-hearted king.

What is the opposite of a hardened heart? John Piper says, “Faith is the tender, dependent opposite of rebellion, resistance and self-reliance.” Faith is the way we cultivate a soft, tender heart to the Lord. Here are three principles to cultivate a soft heart:

1. **Know the Truth**: Know who God is and who you are. See yourself fully alive to God! You are enjoyed, empowered and loved by God. You are a son or a daughter, commissioned by Him. His resources are available to you and all of heaven backs you! Knowing the Truth with transformed thinking which comes through the renewing of the mind. And faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. Let the Word grow in your heart and mind. Meditate on what is true. Bill Johnson says, “I cannot afford to have a thought in my head about me that Jesus doesn’t have in His head about me.” Let the Truth from God’s Word transform your mind. Don’t allow your circumstances define what you think about God or what you think about you.
2. **Resist Darkness**: Resist means to oppose; withstand; defy; battle; fight. Resist sin and those circumstances that stir up sinful desires. A bond is created through obedience. Obedience empowers who you obey. Refuse to obey sin. “*For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin,*” Romans 6:6. Say this out loud: I AM DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE IN HIM (Romans 6:11). If you are a believer, then you are dead to the reign of sin. Sin’s penalty, shame, and being a slave to sin no longer have a hold on you. You are no longer powerless!
3. **Pursue God**: Make yourself available to Him. Make choices that show obedience and love for God. Spend time growing in relationship with Him.

Reflect on these three principles.

Know Truth

Resist Darkness

Pursue God