



NO LIMITS

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

GOING WITHOUT KNOWING

S E R M O N G U I D E

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Deuteronomy 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION

Our brains are hardwired for survival. Behavioral scientists explain that to navigate a precarious ancient world, humans evolved to favor certainty over uncertainty, the known over the unknown. This instinct for predictability, which kept our ancestors safe, often comes into conflict with the life of faith. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). We are called to rely not on what we can see, but on who we can trust.

This tension is at the heart of our passage in Deuteronomy 2. After decades of wandering in the wilderness, circling the same mountain, God’s people are stuck. They are caught between the familiar bondage of their past and the uncertain promise of their future. God steps in with a clear command: “You’ve been going around in circles in these hills long enough; go north.” It’s a call to move forward, to break out of stagnation. Yet, God gives them no detailed map, no timeline, and no forecast of the challenges ahead. He simply tells them to go. This challenges us to ask ourselves: are we willing to walk with God by faith, even when we have to go without knowing?

KEY POINTS

1. Find Value In The Journey

God rarely gives us the full picture because He wants us to find value in the journey, not just the destination. We often suffer from “destination addiction,” believing our worth, completion, or satisfaction will only arrive when we get the job, the relationship, or the breakthrough. But God is more interested in our formation than our arrival. The journey is where He teaches us patience, humility, and endurance. It’s where our character is forged and our motives are purified. In Luke 17, Jesus tells ten lepers to go show themselves to the priests, and the Bible says, “as they went, they were cleansed.” Their miracle happened in the process, on the journey. If they had demanded a guarantee before taking the first step, they would have missed their healing.

The season you are in right now is not just a placeholder; it is a classroom. God is doing something in you to prepare you for what He has prepared for you. Instead of being frustrated by the perceived delay, ask God what He is trying to develop in you during this process. If you don’t learn the lesson on the journey, you will arrive at the destination unchanged. The journey is where we learn that the things we once feared cannot break us. It is where God does some of His best work, transforming us from people driven by survival to people guided by promise.

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2. Don't Be Fooled By Familiarity

As God commands Israel to move north, He warns them that they will pass through the land of their relatives, the people of Esau. He tells them not to settle there, because that is not the land He has for them. God understands that we are often tempted to settle for what feels familiar, even if it keeps us in bondage. Sometimes, the thing you must leave is not sin, but sameness. We build altars around people, places, and patterns that are comfortable but ultimately keep us from the life God intends for us. This can even include family systems that, without intending harm, reward stagnation and punish growth. To move forward into the unfamiliar requires us to depend on God in a new way, disrupting cycles of dysfunction that have kept us and others stuck.

Your growth will inevitably make some people uncomfortable, but you cannot trade what you are becoming for the comfort of others. God is calling you to bless those who are part of your past but to keep moving forward. Some spaces in our lives are transitional, not permanent. Lingering too long in what feels familiar will cause you to miss what God has prepared ahead. This is a call to social justice in our own lives: to challenge the familiar systems of inequity, both personal and societal, that we have grown comfortable with, and to step into the uncomfortable work of building something new and more just.

3. Rely On God's Track Record

When the future is unclear, the past becomes our evidence. God doesn't ask Israel to trust Him blindly. He points them to His track record. He says, "For forty years now, God, your God, has been right here with you. You haven't lacked one thing." God's history of provision, protection, and presence is the anchor for their faith. When you don't know what lies ahead, you can look back at where God has brought you from. Every past deliverance, every answered prayer, and every moment of provision becomes proof that God can be trusted again. When a bank considers you for a loan, they don't ask how you feel; they look at your record. God's record with you is perfect.

When your own future feels unpredictable, God's past faithfulness becomes persuasive. It suggests that if He has shown up before, He will show up again. There were moments you did not know how you would make it, but you made it. There were doors you could not open, but they opened. That is not coincidence; it is covenant. Your ability to interpret the present and trust God for the future is directly tied to your memory of what He has already done. Take time to reflect on God's track record in your life. This spiritual intelligence strengthens your confidence and gives you the courage to move forward, even without all the details.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Instead of focusing on a future destination you are hoping for, what is one thing God might be teaching or developing in you during your current journey?
2. What familiar places, relationships, or mindsets might be keeping you from moving forward into the new thing God has for you?
3. How can reflecting on a specific time God was faithful in your past give you the courage to take the next step He is calling you to take?
