

## TURNING WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTH

18/7/10

*It can be a daunting task to serve God when we feel weak or lack confidence and conviction. However, God is an expert at changing weakness into strength and turning ordinary people into real heroes. God has already taken the first step by filling you with the Holy Spirit, just as he did with Jesus and later with his disciples. The following story of Moses will serve to show us just how great a thing the Lord can do if we are willing to act on his directives through the application of faith.*

**Moses avoids a death sentence against newborn males because his mother hid him in the reeds.**

**EXO 2:3** And when she could not longer hide him (*Moses mother*), she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid *it* in the flags by the river's brink.

**4** And **his** (*Moses*) **sister** stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

**5** And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

**6** And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had **compassion** on him (*the Lord softened her heart*), and said, *This is one of the Hebrews' children.*

**7** Then said **his** (*Moses*) **sister** to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? *Now for the next miracle... the result of a faithful sister.*

**8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

**9** And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. *Moses mother is paid to raise her now protected child.*

**10** And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water. *Many miracles are evident already.*

*Moses is raised as the son of the daughter of Pharaoh and spends forty years high in the ranks of the Egyptians. Moses takes revenge and murders an Egyptian who had harmed an Israelite... he is rejected by his fellow Israelites and flees to the country where he spends the next forty years of his life... total of eighty years.*

**EXO 3:1** Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

**2** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

**3** And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

**4** And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. *We are like the bush... we are filled with the Holy Spirit and fire and yet we are not consumed.*

**&7** And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

**8** And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey... *We are also asked to do similar.*

**Moses doubts his ability... without realising it, he is doubting God's ability.**

**11** And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? *We can feel just like this... why would anyone want to listen to us?*

**God promises to fight the battle and protect Moses from his enemies.**

**20** And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

**Moses still doubts and fears.**

**EXO 4:1** And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

**2** And the LORD said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

**3** And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

**4** And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

**5** That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* leprous as snow.

7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his *other* flesh.

8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. *God has also given us signs for the unbelievers... Mark 16:17-18.*

***Moses still doubts and fears... despite the signs.***

**EXO 4:10** And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. *Many of us can feel like this as well.*

11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. *This is the same promise given to everyone of us today... [JOH 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you].*

13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of *him whom* thou wilt send. *Moses still doubts and requires an assistant... this angers God at this point.*

14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. *God offers to work through both Moses and Aaron.*

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

**17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.**

***Summary of deeds done by Moses, despite his weakness, fears and doubts.***

- *Moses faces Pharaoh numerous times to release his people from slavery. Pharaoh rejects him on all but the last occasion.*
- *Moses rod turns into a serpent and shortly after ate all of Pharaohs serpents.*
- *The Nile river, all streams and ponds are turned into 'blood'... probably an algae bloom: caused absolute havoc.*
- *A plague of frogs came next.... then*
- *A plague of lice.*
- *A swarm of flies.*
- *A plague upon all the cattle.*
- *An outbreak of boils*
- *A severe ongoing hail storm.*
- *A plague of locusts.*
- *Three days of darkness.*
- *The death of all the firstborn.*

*The Red Sea was parted so the Israelites could cross over without getting wet. Part of it then collapsed on the unsuspecting Egyptian army... all died. This was a trap that they did not see as the partial collapse occurred at first light... EXO 14:27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength **when the morning appeared** (at first light... the Egyptians didn't know they were in the middle of the sea); and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Also JOS 24:7 And when they cried unto the LORD, he put **darkness between you and the Egyptians**, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.*

*All these things are nothing compared to what came next, but we will save that for another time.*

***Conclusion.***

*Every step Moses took was done with fear and weakness, but God turned that into a great strength. How did he do it? One thing that Moses had despite all his failings was the willingness to serve God.... He had faith.*

*You have the Holy Spirit... much better than the rod that Moses had. What are you going to let God do with you?*