

GIVE GOD SOMETHING TO WORK WITH>

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> and he will give you something to work with. Everyone can have a wonderful life with the Lord if they stop long enough to give him something to work with. Moses is perhaps one of the greatest examples of God's ability to turn an average person into a remarkable **powerhouse**. The turning point came when Moses saw a burning bush and stopped to hear the message (just like us when we were witnessed to)... **EXO 3:2** 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** (name meaning... 'drawn out of water'... is about to be drawn out of fire) said, **I will now turn aside**, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. God had something to work with... he began his 40 year service. Moses lived 120 years (revealed the Old Testament), 120 at Pentecost, 'Dunamis' 120 times in the New Testament.

God starts preparing him for service. **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: **&17** **And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.** Moses had power over the serpent (Satan)... just like us. **MAR 16:18** They shall **take up serpents**; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (signs). Our 'rod' is the authorised (God given) gospel of salvation (life) and of truth and power.

We can all find weaknesses to avoid service. **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**. However, **ACT 7:22** And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was **mighty in words** and in deeds.

Identify your spiritual strength. **EXO 14:15** And the Lord said unto Moses, **Wherefore criest thou unto me?** speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: **16** But lift thou up **thy rod**, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and **divide it**: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. *You have the power of salvation.*

People = problems, Power and Faith = solutions. **EXO 17:3** And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? **4** And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. **5** And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the **elders of Israel; and thy rod**, wherewith thou smotest the river (*turned to blood*), take in thine hand, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou **shalt smite the rock**, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. **&1COR 10:1** For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **3** and all ate the same spiritual food; **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. *Our purposes are symbolised with Moses.*

Challenged by family. **NUM 12:1** And Miriam (Moses older sister, a prophetess who wrote the 'horse and rider' lyrics) and Aaron (First high priest, Moses older brother) spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman (*Zipporah?*) whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. **2** And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. **3** (**Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.**) **4** And the Lord spake **suddenly** unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. **5** And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. **6** And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. **7** My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. **8** **With him will I speak mouth to mouth** (*Ex33:11*). *Today, the voice gifts, witnessing, etc. are strong opportunities for such actions.*

Challenged by friends. **NUM 14:22** Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these **ten times** (*rejecting the promised land*), and have not hearkened to my voice; **23** Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: *Some rose up... repenting in their own strength and not the Lord's... destroyed by their enemies. Then came Korah and other religious leaders, challenging the authority of God's power in Moses and Aaron's priesthood. The earth opens up consuming Korah and his supporters, then the people rose up once again objecting to God's judgment. God smites them with a plague: again, Moses intercedes and comes between the plague and the people.*

Finally overwhelmed by negativity. **NUM 20:7** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **8** Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. **9** And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him. **10** And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before

the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, **ye rebels** (17:10); must we fetch you water out of this rock? **11** And Moses lifted up his hand, and **with his rod he smote the rock twice**: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. **12** And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. *The first time Moses struck the rock which then brought forth water, was symbolic of Christ being struck on the cross and bringing forth water, water being symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The second time Moses came to the rock, he was to speak to it, not strike it, because Christ was not to be struck down on his second coming. Christ would be spoken to face to face as Moses enjoyed with God. Thus, Moses had actually corrupted the second symbolic revelation of the power of the coming Christ, for all of recorded history. Also, Miriam had only just died and was buried, just before this uprising occurred.*

The last battle before the promised land. NUM 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. **2** And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. **3** And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. **4** And the Lord said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from Israel. **5** And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. **6** And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. **7** And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; **8** And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. **9** And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand. **10** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **11 Phinehas** (Aaron's grandson), the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. **12** Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: **13** And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an **everlasting priesthood** (our blessing today); because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Moses summarises his journey and gives final instructions for Israel in the book of Deuteronomy. Everything they needed to know was laid out before them, but it was up to them to give God something to work with.

Brief summary of Moses Service.

*Almost murdered as a baby, *challenged by his own self image, *faced pharaoh 10 times, *hits the red sea barrier, *challenged by the people as soon as they crossed the red sea, *let down by Aaron while he was securing the 10 commandments, *challenged by Aaron (high priest) and his sister (prophetess) about his Ethiopian wife, *challenged by Korah and others from the Levitical (Priestly) tribe, *Challenged again to produce water hit the rock rather than spoke to the rock... was banned from entering the promised land, *Challenged by the fiery serpents as the people once again whinged against God and Moses, raised the brass (fiery) serpent on a pole (his serpent [symbol of Christ] once again had more power than the other serpents), *Battled the last enemies as they moved towards the promised land, *Aaron dies around this time, *Wrote the first five books of the bible including his own failings and disqualification from entering the promised land... also noted his own death. *No one else could have got the people to where Moses did, nor prepare them for their life in the promised land, *then Joshua (military leader and replacer of Moses after his death) stepped forward and gave God a chance to work with him.

Moses direct revelations from God, quoted in the New Testament. ACT 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. We are these people today. **23** And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. *This is a very big calling... we need to appeal to God for people like Moses also did.*

Like Moses, we need to identify who we are and the power that is in us and the opportunities set before. MAT 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist (this includes Moses): notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven (someone lower than you) is greater than he. *These amazing people of faith all had their chance to develop and prosper, because people like Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua, Caleb, Phineas and all their families, set an example by giving God something to work with. As impossible as it might be to our natural thinking, we are better positioned and better equipped than what they ever were.*

As spirit filled people we are in a greater position and have greater power than what Moses enjoyed. Despite all his fears and weaknesses, he gave God something to work with... and God did! Just as Moses handed over to Joshua, now it is our turn... let's be inspired and act accordingly. We have much more supporting us this time than any of these amazing people ever had.