

GROW

Moses was reluctant to believe he could do what God was asking him to do. Isn't that the story of our lives? We know what God might be asking us to do, but feel that we don't have the tools, means or power to do it. For some of us we feel inadequate, unworthy or feel that because of our past, we don't deserve for God to intervene in our lives.

Read Exodus 4:1-17

The New American Commentary explains Moses protests to his calling:

Moses' first two protests (3:11, 13) were of the formal sort, properly expressing humility before such a great assignment, but here his words revealed the presence of uncertainty in his mind. God had already assured him in unmistakable language that the Israelite leaders would listen to him (3:18): now he wondered if he could be sure that this would happen—that they would believe his claim that the Lord⁶³ had appeared to him and do what he said (“obey me”; NIV “listen to me”). This sort of timidity did not constitute the sort of disobedience that the outright plea for relief from the task that he would express in his fifth and final protest (4:13), but it clearly represented at least an initial concern for how easily others would accept God's promise at face value. Moses was not doubting God's promise, but he certainly was afraid the Israelites would doubt it. Fortunately, God was prepared to reassure him with three signs he could use to overcome the doubt he was bound to encounter.

Why do you think God asked Moses in verse two, “What is that in your hand?”

When you feel inadequate, remember that God has given us everything we need to do what he called us to do. Do you ever feel inadequate to do what God is asking of you?

Do you think Moses struggled with trusting God's math? Where do you think Moses most struggled trusting God?

MOVE

Just like Moses, we have in our hand everything God has given us to do what he called us to do. It may not seem like it adds up, but in God's economy, we can trust his promises even when it looks like it will be difficult.

It is simple addition:

What you have + the power of God = what you need

The very thing that Moses would need to fulfill his calling was already in his hands before God showed up in the burning bush. But for God to use what Moses had, Moses had to be willing to obey God and surrender it to him. Once he did that, God took what he already had and brought it to life.

Exodus 4:17

And take your shepherd's staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you.

The stick Moses carried around was never referred to as a stick anymore, but a staff. It would now be referred to as the staff of God. When we think of our own lives, are there things we need to lay down before God? How can God use what is in our own hands for his glory? Moses saw God do powerful things through what he thought was just an ordinary shepherd's stick. Think of Samson and the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15). The boy David and his sling (1 Samuel). The little boy and his sack lunch that Jesus used to feed 5000 people. Hannah and her little child she dedicated to God.

God loves to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary for his glory, taking the impossible and making it possible with people who will trust him.

What do you think God may be asking you to lay down before him?

What gift or ability do you think God gave you to make a difference in other people's lives?

Are you trying to develop and use your gifts in the local church?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another great book to read about trusting God is "Ruthless Trust" by Brennan Manning.