Conversation Starters

How does fear impact your life, positively or negatively?

Discuss

Of all the fears we have, the greatest may be the fear of failure. The fear of failure often leaves us paralyzed to not even try to do what you know is right or what God wants you to do. Instead of experiencing all that God wants for us we are left empty and wondering "what if?" The Bible records the life of Moses, who had one of the most significant lives in history. The latter years of his life were most significant, but he almost missed out on living it because of the fear of failure.

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11 NIV)

- Has the fear of failure ever caused you to miss out on something you really wanted?
- What did you learn from that experience?

When Moses brought his fear to God, God reassured him that He would be with him anywhere He called Moses to go or do. This is the same promise God offers His followers. It's also a reminder for us that God is capable of the impossible and it is Him that works through us to accomplish what He calls us to do, not something we do by our own power. Belief in God is a dynamic relationship, not static.

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." (Exodus 3:12 NIV)

Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say." (Exodus 4:11-12 NLT)

- If you read on about Moses' life, what do the ways God shows up say about His power?
- How is it comforting to know that this is the same God that promises to be with you?
- What does it mean to have a dynamic as opposed to a static relationship with God?

Even with God's promise to be with him, Moses was still fearful. He asked God to send someone else, which angered God. God's anger is always good and righteous and here in this part of Moses' life, God's anger was for Moses almost choosing to let fear become his god and cause him to miss out on everything God had planned for his life. When Moses eventually chose to trust God, he went on to live an amazing life that we are still talking about over 2000 years later.

But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." Then the Lord became angry with Moses. (Exodus 4:13-14a NLT)

- Where are you frustrating God because you're choosing fear over Him?
- What do you want the headline of your life to be?
- What does your fear say about what you believe about the character of God?



Next Steps

Spend some time reflecting on who God is and all that He has done. Read Moses story to help learn about His character. Pray and thank God for who He is, share any fears you have, and invite Him to lead you through them.

It's also always helpful to have others to walk with you as you live out your faith. We were never meant to live life apart from others following God. Share your fear with someone you know or a leader you trust. If you don't have people in your life that you can share with, consider joining a group at Meck.

Further Reflection

Read <u>Exodus 3:1-12</u>; <u>Exodus 4:1-14</u>.

Pray

God, Your strength and greatness is unmatched through all of history. Thank You for a relationship that is unlike any other we have and for being with us through everything we do and everywhere we go, even when we are fearful. Please give us wisdom and lead us however You would like, and help us to trust You through it.