

The Faith of Moses: Learning to Step Into God's Plan, Not Your Own

There is something deeply comforting and profoundly challenging about the life of Moses. He was a man of extraordinary destiny, shaped by extraordinary circumstances, who still managed to argue with God at a burning bush. And somehow, in all of that, God used him to accomplish some of the most remarkable things recorded in human history. The story of Moses is not just an ancient biography. It is a mirror held up to every person who has ever wondered whether they are qualified, whether they have failed too badly, or whether God's plan for their life can still move forward.

Humble Enough to Be Used

Numbers 12:3 describes Moses as the most humble man on the face of the earth. Humility, at its core, is the willingness to go unnoticed. It is the quiet surrender of the need to be the hero of your own story. Moses understood, eventually, that the story was never about him. It was about God and what God was determined to accomplish among His people.

That posture of humility is the foundation everything else rests on. Without it, the burning bush becomes a career opportunity. With it, the burning bush becomes an invitation to participate in something far greater than yourself.

The Faith That Starts at Home

One of the most striking observations in Hebrews 11, the great chapter of faith, is where the account of Moses begins. It does not begin with the parting of the Red Sea. It does not begin with the plagues of Egypt or the giving of the Law. It begins with his parents. Hebrews 11:23 describes how Moses' parents hid him because they saw something remarkable in him, and they were not afraid of the king's command.

That is a profound starting point. Before Moses ever stepped into his calling, someone else stepped into theirs. His parents acted in faith on his behalf before he could act for himself.

This speaks directly to the responsibility of raising children in the full counsel of God. Not a selective version of Scripture that only includes the comfortable and easy parts, but the whole truth. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that training a child in the way they should go produces fruit that lasts into old age. Proverbs 22:15 and Ephesians 6:4 together paint a picture of parenting that holds discipline and gentleness in tension, guided not by personal preference or cultural trend but by the wisdom of God.

Raising children is one of the most faith-stretching experiences God gives us, precisely because it forces us to our knees. The goal is not to produce compliant children. It is to raise adults who know that they are the church wherever they go, not just when they attend a Sunday meeting or a church event.

The faith of Timothy, as Paul notes in 2 Timothy 1:5, was traceable directly back through his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. Faith passes through families. That is not an accident. That is design.

The Burning Bush and the Reluctant Leader

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, Moses was eighty years old. He had spent forty years in the palace of Pharaoh and forty years tending sheep in Midian. He had once believed, as Acts 7:25 reveals, that God would use him to deliver Israel. Then everything fell apart, and he spent four decades in the wilderness wondering if that moment had passed him by.

It had not.

But when God finally spoke, Moses pushed back. He asked who he was to do such a thing. God's answer was not a list of Moses' qualifications. It was simply, "I will be with you." That is the answer to every question about calling and adequacy. It is not about who you are. It is about who God is.

Moses then questioned whether the people would believe him. God provided signs. Moses then claimed he was not a good speaker, despite the fact that Acts 7:22 tells us he was trained in all the wisdom of Egypt and was mighty in word and deed. He was scraping for excuses. Finally, he simply asked God to send someone else, and the anger of the Lord was kindled against him.

The consequence of that persistent resistance was subtle but significant. When Moses and Aaron went to the elders of Israel and then to Pharaoh, it was Aaron who spoke. The first three plagues came through Aaron. Moses had resisted long enough that God worked around him, not abandoning His plan, but adjusting the instrument. It was only gradually that Moses stepped into the fullness of what God had called him to.

God's Plan Will Not Fail

This is perhaps the most important thread running through the entire story of Moses. The calling Moses received was not a private plan designed specifically for him. It was an invitation to participate in something God had promised Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16, centuries before Moses was born. God told Abraham exactly what would happen: slavery, suffering, judgment on Egypt, and a great departure with plunder. Moses was not the architect of the plan. He was invited to participate in it.

This reframes everything. If the calling belongs to God, then its ultimate success also belongs to God. As Jeremiah 1 describes, God watches over His word to perform it. That does not mean life will feel like success at every turn. It means that God's purposes will not be frustrated, even when we stumble, even when we resist, even when we feel like we are tending sheep in Midian with no idea what comes next.

Moses never entered the promised land in his earthly life. But in Matthew 17, on the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses stood with Jesus inside the land he had only ever seen from a distance. God's redemption reaches further than our failures!

Step In

The invitation standing before every reader is the same one Moses received at the burning bush. Not a personal empire to build, but a place in something God is already doing. The pressure of that is not yours to carry. Exodus 33:15 captures Moses at his best: unwilling to move a single step without the presence of God going with him.

That is the posture worth holding. Eyes open. Hands available. Heart surrendered to a plan that was never yours to begin with.