



God Does His Work His Way

by Mike Hawkins
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The more I reflect on Moses, the more I appreciate how much alike we are. Some things just don't change very much, even over several thousand years.

From the book of Exodus, starting in chapter two, we know that Moses was a caring man standing up for his Hebrew brethren. Yet when he was called by God to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, he made excuses. Despite God's promise of success, he lacked the confidence and courage to approach the Pharaoh about letting the Israelites go.

Moses repeatedly pushed back on his assignment. In Ex 4:10, Moses said "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." God reassured Moses, but Moses again showed his lack of confidence in Ex 4:13, where he said in exasperation, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." God had a plan, but Moses lacked faith. He lacked confidence. He was afraid.

With the help of his brother Aaron, Moses finally accepted God's assignment. He approached the Pharaoh as God directed him, but his request was denied. Instead, the Pharaoh made the working conditions for the Israelites even tougher. Moses had failed. His confidence fell again. Even with miraculous signs from God, Moses was afraid to continue to follow God's direction.

What Moses didn't understand was that God needed him to fail in order for His plan to work. Had Moses been successful early on, God's power would not have been needed, nor demonstrated.

It is only when people are unable to do something on their own that they realize God's true power. It often takes not only one failure or adverse situation, but many failures and extremely adverse conditions. In fact, it was only after ten denials and ten plagues, any one of which were extreme beyond our modern day comprehension, that the Pharaoh conceded to Moses' request. As a result, God's plan worked.

Part of my amazement about this story is in how ordinary Moses was, and yet God chose him to deliver the Israelites out of slavery. As God so often does, he used an average person to do His work. It reminds me of the 12 disciples Jesus chose, none of whom were the great leaders and influencers of their day. It also reminds me of you and me, normal people with whom God has chosen to have a relationship.

It is average people, you and me, whom God calls to do His work. It is not the most eloquent of speakers, the most famous of people, or those with the most resources to offer. It is normal people who can only succeed through God's influence in their lives.

My other takeaway is that failure and adversity are part of God's plan. While God won't push you beyond what you can bear, He knows you can bear a lot, and doing Kingdom work is not guaranteed to be easy.

Remain strong and keep your faith. Press on as God directs you through His Word, your prayers, your talents, your passions, and the circumstances in which you find yourself. Your reward in heaven is much greater than all you could have here on earth. It is certainly worth the risk of failure and any temporary adversity you will encounter.

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