

The Five Responses of Moses

Purpose: to remind our people that God is in the process of shaping us and to encourage them to allow Him to use them.

How do you hear God's voice? Many Christians have said to me that they struggle to hear God's voice, yet when I ask if they ever heard from God they almost always say yes. Have you ever heard God speak to you? Here is an ever better question: what do we do when God tells us something or gives us something to do?

Today we are going to consider the conversation between Moses and God at the on Mount Sinai when God spoke to him in a burning bush. This is one of the most remarkable conversations ever recorded between God and man. Before we look at it more closely there is something important to consider:

God initiated this conversion! Why did God talk to Moses?

1. Because He was answering the prayers of His people.
2. Because He had a task that needed to be performed and He chose Moses to do it.
3. Because Moses had been prepared and ready to do the job:
 - a. He had both been educated in Egypt and trained by the circumstances of life
 - b. He had learned how to live in the wilderness and had become a humble man

Here are the things that God said and the 5 responses of Moses:

Exo 3:1 - Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Exo 3:2 - And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

Exo 3:3 - Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

Exo 3:4 - So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Exo 3:5 - Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Exo 3:6 - Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Exo 3:7 - And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

Exo 3:8 - So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Exo 3:9 - Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Exo 3:10 - *Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

Moses' first response: "Who am I...?"

Exo 3:11 - *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*

When we realise that we are weak there is often a reluctance to attempt to do something that God has told us to do. How does God respond?

Exo 3:12 - *So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."*

If God sends you, He will be with you!

Moses' second response: "What shall I say to them...?"

Exo 3:13 - *Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"*

When we realise that we lack ability, there is often a reluctance to speak on God's behalf. What did God say in reply?

Exo 3:14 - *And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Exo 3:15 - *Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'*

Exo 3:16 - *Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;*

Exo 3:17 - *and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.' "*

Exo 3:18 - *Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'*

Exo 3:19 - *But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.*

Exo 3:20 - *So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.*

Exo 3:21 - *And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.*

Exo 3:22 - *But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."*

If God sends you, he will tell you what to say.

Moses' third response: "Suppose they will not believe me..."

Exo 4:1 - Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "

When we realise that we lack qualification we often lack confidence.

Exo 4:2 - So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod."

Exo 4:3 - And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

Exo 4:4 - Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),

Exo 4:5 - "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Exo 4:6 - Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.

Exo 4:7 - And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.

Exo 4:8 - "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.

Exo 4:9 - And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

If God sends you, He will back you up!

Moses' fourth response: "I am not eloquent..."

Exo 4:10 - Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

When we realise that we are afraid, we are often reluctant to do anything in public

Exo 4:10 - Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Exo 4:11 - So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"

Exo 4:12 - Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

If God sends you He'll teach you how to do what you need to do.

Moses's fifth response: "Send someone else!"

Exo 4:13 - But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

Sometimes, no matter what the situation or circumstances, we just don't want to do what God says!

Exo 4:14 - So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

Exo 4:15 - Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.

Exo 4:16 - So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.

Exo 4:17 - And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

Don't make Him Mad!!!

- Are you reluctant to do something that God has told you because you feel weak?
 - **God promises to be with you!**
- Are you reluctant to speak on God's behalf because of your lack of abilities?
 - **He will tell you what to say!**
- Do you lack confidence because you have no qualifications?
 - **God will back you up!**
- Are you afraid of speaking in public?
 - **God will teach you what you need to do!**
- Or is it that you just don't want to do what God says?
 - **Don't make Him mad!**