

Exodus chapter 4, is a powerful passage that deals with the hesitations of the human heart and the overwhelming sufficiency of our God.

In the previous chapter, God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Now, we see the dialogue continue. Moses is standing on holy ground, yet he is struggling with the same thing we often struggle with unbelief.

I. The Sufficiency of God's Power (Exodus 4:1-9)

Moses begins with a classic "what if." He says in Exodus 4:1, *"But, behold, they will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee."* Moses is worried about his credentials. But God doesn't give him a diploma or a resume; He gives him a rod. He asks, *"What is that in thine hand?"* Moses says, *"A rod."* It was just a common shepherd's staff, a tool of his trade. But when Moses cast it down at God's command, it became a serpent. When he picked it up by the tail—an act of total obedience—it became a rod again.

God then gives him a second sign: his hand becoming leprous and then being healed. Then a third: water turning to blood. God was showing Moses that he wasn't going in his own strength.

Note: God often takes the "common" things in our lives—our talents, our jobs, our simple availability—and when we surrender them to Him, they become instruments of His power. What is in your hand today?

II. The Creator and Our Infirmities (Exodus 4:10-12)

Even after the miracles, Moses continues to argue. He claims he is not eloquent, that he is *"slow of speech, and of a slow tongue"* (Exodus 4:10). Watch how the Lord responds in Exodus 4:11:

"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?"

This is a heavy verse. God takes full responsibility for the way we are created. This challenges our intellect. We ask, "How can a loving God allow someone to be born blind?" We may not have a full philosophical answer, but we have a Biblical one: God is Sovereign. We live in a fallen world, but God uses even our weaknesses for His glory. Faith isn't understanding everything; faith is trusting God when you *don't* understand. If we only believed what we could reason out, we wouldn't need faith—we'd just need an IQ. But *"without faith it is impossible to please him"* (Hebrews 11:6). Whether it's a physical ailment or a difficult season, God uses these things to keep us from becoming "settled on our lees" or complacent. They remind us that this world is not our home.

III. Settling for Second Best (Exodus 4:13-17)

Finally, Moses just comes out with it: *"O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send"* (Exodus 4:13). Essentially, he's saying, "Lord, please just send someone else."

The Bible says the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses. God allowed Aaron to go as a spokesman, but notice this: it was God's permissive will, not His perfect will. Aaron would later become a stumbling block when he fashioned the golden calf.

God will meet you at the level of your faith, but oh, how much we miss when we won't step out! God wanted to be Moses' mouth. Instead, Moses settled for a "middleman." Don't limit what God wants to do in your life by insisting on your own comforts or excuses.

IV. The Importance of Obedience (Exodus 4:18-31)

As Moses heads toward Egypt, we find a strange encounter in Exodus 4:24 where the Lord met him and *"sought to kill him."* Why? Because Moses had failed to circumcise his son.

Circumcision was the outward sign of the covenant. Moses was going to lead God's people, yet his own house was not in order. He had likely compromised to keep peace with his wife, Zipporah. But God will not use a leader who willfully neglects His commands. Once the covenant was honored, the way was cleared.

When Moses and Aaron finally arrived in Egypt and performed the signs, the Bible says in Exodus 4:31: *"And the people believed: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped."*

Practical Application & Challenge

1. **Surrender your "Rod":** What do you have that you think is "ordinary"? Give it to God and watch Him make it extraordinary.
2. **Stop Making Excuses:** God isn't looking for your ability; He is looking for your availability. He made your mouth; He can certainly fill it.
3. **Check Your Obedience:** Is there an area in your life—like Moses and the circumcision of his son—where you've been compromising? Get your house in order so God can use you fully.

An Invitation to New Life

Perhaps you are like the Israelites, feeling the "affliction" of your sin and the weight of this world. There is a Deliverer greater than Moses. Jesus Christ came to this earth, lived a perfect life, and willingly went to the cross.

It was there that He shed His precious blood to pay the price for your sins and mine. He didn't stay in the grave; His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord! He has conquered death so that you can have eternal life.

If you haven't given your life to Him, why wait? You don't have to "clean yourself up" first. Come to Him just as you are. Admit you are a sinner, believe that He died for you and rose again, and confess Him as your Lord.