

# **Preparation For The Journey**

## The Five Deadly Fears

**A**s we move toward becoming the people God has called us to be, and as we gear up to do the things God has called us to do, we are going to find ourselves facing some challenges that perhaps we have never faced before. These challenges will come from our minds, our flesh, and from the enemy. But you can rest assured that, in some way or degree, you will face one or more of the fears that we are about to discuss.

In addressing these fears, we are going to look at Moses, the greatest prophet ever to live (save Jesus Himself), and a man, sent to do one of the greatest tasks ever asked of someone. In doing so we are going to find the five fears that will attempt to paralyze us, incapacitate us, and if at all possible, completely keep us from fulfilling our God-given destinies. While there are other fears that we may struggle with, these five are specifically mentioned as the fears that tried to keep Moses from leading the people of God to their finest moment of victory. I believe that what is revealed in scripture is revealed for a specific reason. Therefore, we are going to look at these fears as if we were facing them in our own endeavors and discover how God responds to them. For without question, these fears are the foundation for the forces that would keep us from fulfilling our purpose in life.

The great thing about this study is that what you are going to learn can be applied not only to your quest for spiritual growth but in every other area of your life as well. Our study will be taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chapters of Exodus, when Moses was in the wilderness tending sheep and God appeared to him in the form of a burning bush. We are going to discover that Moses, this would-be great man-of-faith, was riddled with doubts about his ability to lead. He resisted God because of his fears of unworthiness and lack of authority, as well as the fears of rejection, physical limitations, and his sheer cowardice. Moses overcame these monumental fears to become a man who would talk to God face-to-face, go forward to accomplish the greatest feats (apart from those of Jesus) ever recorded in scripture, and emerge as one of history's most decisive and powerful leaders. If Moses could do it, then we can take heart that we, too, can overcome our fears and become the people that God has called us to be.

## Five Deadly Fears

## God's Response

### **FEAR # 1: Unworthiness**

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)

### **Response # 1: I Will BE With You**

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be a sign 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)

### **FEAR # 2: Lack Of Authority**

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' then what shall I tell them?"

Exodus 3:13 (NIV)

### **Response # 2: "I Am" Has Sent You**

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 3:14 (NIV)

### **FEAR # 3: Rejection / People's Distrust**

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you?'"

Exodus 4:1 (NIV)

### **Response # 3: I Will Confirm & Empower / Signs & Wonders**

Then the Lord said to him, "what is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. The lord said, "Throw it on the ground."... and it became a snake... then the Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail."... and it turned back into a staff in his hand. "This" said the Lord, "is that they may believe that the Lord... has appeared to you." Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your cloak."... when he took it out it was leprous, like snow. "Now put it back into your cloak,"...when he took it out, it was restored... Then the Lord said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign they may believe the second. But if they do not

believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

Exodus 4:2-9 (NIV)

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**FEAR # 4: Physical Limitations**

Moses said to the Lord, “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.”

Exodus 4:10 (NIV)

**Response # 4: I Made You, I Will Help & Teach You**

The Lord said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Exodus 4:11-12 (NIV)

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**FEAR # 5: Sheer Cowardice**

But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

Exodus 4:13 (NIV)

**Response # 5: Anger / I Will Send You A Helper**

Then the Lord’s anger burned toward Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. You speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

Exodus 4:14-17(NIV)

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