

# Session I

## "The Assurance Of A Divine Call"

### Scripture: Exodus 3:1-14

#### Introduction

After 54 years in personal ministry, I have come to the conclusion that many people are in the ministry for the wrong reasons. Some have chosen it simply as a job or a vocation. Others have chosen it hoping to make money and gain respect or prestige. Yet, God's Word teaches that no person should be in Spiritual Leadership anywhere in the work of the Kingdom of God without having been given the direct call of God. The question I ask you today is, "Do you have the assurance that you have been given a Divine call to the role that you are now in?" If you do not, you should leave your position and seek other places to work or serve. Today, we will look at the call of Moses to see what is truly involved in a "Divine Call From God."

#### I. NOTICE THE PREPARATION FOR THE CALL. v. 1

The first thing we notice as we look into this Scripture passage is how God prepared Moses in advance for the call of God in his life. I am sure that Moses had no idea what God was preparing him for as he looked after his father-in-law's sheep. But, as we learn even in verse one of our text, whatever is happening to us today will probably be used by God to get us to the place where we need to be in His perfect will for our lives. We may discount what is happening to us, what we might be doing, or even where we might be working; but nothing is accidental. God in His sovereignty is working all things out for our future good in His perfect will. We might not see what God is doing today in the present, but as we learn in **Deuteronomy 33:18-23**, we will definitely see the hand of God in everything in our lives if we view it in the past. In other words, we probably will not see God's plan for our lives until we look backward and see what His hand has done for us.

#### A. Moses was prepared by learning responsibility. v. 1a

I believe one of the hardest things we will ever have to learn in our lives is what personal responsibility God has given to us presently and what we will be responsible for in the future. Just like Moses, God might have us in a little insignificant place to watch over little insignificant "sheep" in order to truly teach us personal responsibility and loyalty. The little job "at the back side of the desert" may not seem like much now, but with time, God will use our little insignificant responsibilities and turn them into some amazingly great and wonderful fruit bearing responsibility. In Moses' case, he was taking care of little old stinking sheep where no one was watching. But, unbeknown to him, God was surely watching over Moses to see if he would be faithful in that role which was non-significant to see if Moses would be found dedicated in this

little role. And for sure, we need to know that God was not going to give him a greater role until he had proven himself in a lesser role.

So my dear friends, when we find ourselves “in the backside of the wilderness”, all alone, and trying to carry out a seemingly unimportant role, then we must remain faithful in order to see God take us from that inconspicuous place to a greater place of service and ministry. Right now, God may have you in a sparsely productive place just seeing if He can count on you in the small things before He gives you a much larger and more prominent work for Him. Are you willing to be patient? I trust that you are because you might just be on the threshold of the greatest ministry God has ever given you.

#### B. Moses was prepared by living with roughness. v. 1b

The second very important truth that God brings out in verse one of this text is that sometimes God puts us into one of the most difficult or roughest places on earth to prepare us for His call on our lives. Just stop and think about where God put Moses, in the backside of the desert to take care of Jethro's sheep. Can you imagine with me the conditions that Moses found himself in as a very young man? There was not enough water available at certain times of the year. Then, there had to be wild animals, which tried to attack the sheep day after day and night after night. There were probably wolves, bears, mountain lions, poisonous snakes, and many other creatures that would make Moses' task as a shepherd very dangerous and difficult. In addition, no doubt he had to deal with various diseases that would kill the sheep, and probably even human beings. In other words, Moses was being tested and tried by God Almighty, day after day, for God to make him tough for the call of God on his life. God had a plan of roughness to prepare him for the call because God's bigger plan would even be much worse as Moses was sent by God down into Egypt to deliver the Israelites who were in bondage to Pharaoh the king of Egypt.

So you see folks, sometimes when we are having it so hard where we are, and it just seems that there is so little comfort or ease, God might just be preparing us for a greater task which He is calling us to do. The idea of roughness is not nice, but the outcome certainly can be. Therefore, rather than sitting or standing around complaining about how bad things are where we serve presently, maybe we should just stop and think about the bigger things that God has for us in the future if we respond to the present roughness the way we should. The experience may not be nice and comfortable, but the outcome can be one of the best learning experiences of our lives.

#### C. Moses was prepared by lodging in relationship. v. 1c

In the last part of verse one, we are told that Moses was keeping Jethro's sheep in the backside of the desert at a place called Mt. Horeb. The name Horeb actually means “the place of dryness”, but it was at a place at the foot of the mountain where God would very soon give Moses the Ten Commandments. You see, Mt. Horeb and Mount Sinai are the same mountain in the southern part of the desert in what is today the Sinai Peninsula. The mountain is approximately 7,500 feet high. It is on this mountain where God would give Moses the commandments while the people made a golden calf at the foot of the mountain and worshipped other gods.

Now, let me give the spiritual meaning of this experience for Moses. **\*It is very obvious that no servant of God can ever discover the perfect will or call of God unless that person dwells in a close relationship with God the Father and Christ the Son.** God sent Moses down to one of the lowest parts of the earth in order for him to establish a relationship with the God who would reveal Himself upon the mountain so that Moses could receive the call of God and go forth from this spot to faithfully obey God. You might say that it took dwelling in the backside of the desert in a lonely place far from everyone else so that Moses could fellowship with and get close to God in order to discover the call that God had for him.

This is a great truth for us. We will never be able to discover the clear will and call of God for our lives unless we get alone in a quiet place and lodge close to Jesus Christ so that He can reveal Himself to us. When we are in a crowded or noisy place, it is often impossible for us to hear the voice of God and get the clear word that we must have in order to discover what God wants us to do with our lives. The place where we might need to go may not be a beautiful place, but if the place is barren and deserted, we will be more prone to focus on Him and not on the beauty of a luxurious place. It is one thing to enjoy nature and the creation of God, but it is another thing to experience the sweet presence of God and to hear His voice when He speaks to our hearts. Folks, are you listening for the voice of God? If you aren't, you might need to leave the place where you are being distracted and go to a place where it is just you and the Lord.

## II. NOTICE THE PROCEDURE OF THE CALL. vs. 2-6

As we move on in this study of Moses' call, we need to pay close attention to the actual procedure of the call because this unique story has a world of biblical truth for us as we listen for the call of God for our lives. So, I admonish you to please not miss the step-by-step procedure of Moses' call because there is so much truth to glean from each of the verses from two through six.

### A. The procedure included the appearance of the Divine Messenger. v. 2a

Now, who is this angel in this second verse? Well, I am convinced that this angel was none other than our precious Lord Jesus Himself! Many so-called scholars debate whether this angel was truly Jesus, but a lot of conservative scholars believe just the way I do, that this angel appearing to Moses here in the Old Testament was indeed a Christophany in the Old Testament. A Christophany was where Jesus Christ appeared to someone in a different form than just a spirit being. In this case here in **Exodus Three**, Jesus appeared to Moses in the form of an angel right in the midst of the burning bush. This appearance of Christ was truly God giving Moses the privilege of getting his call straight from Jesus Christ, God's Son, and from no one else. This messenger was truly Divine because it was Jesus our Lord and Master.

May I say to you that every child of God in this dispensation of time is still called directly by our Lord Jesus Christ! He may use His Holy Spirit working through His written Word, but definitely it is Jesus that calls each of us who have genuinely been saved and will stop long enough to pay attention to the call of God. For sure, we need to develop our life and ministry within the call of God, but this cannot and will not happen unless we know for sure that we are really saved.

## B. The procedure included the amazement of a definite mystery. v. 2b

Moses' amazement at the burning of the bush was that instantaneously a fire began to burn in the bush, no doubt very brightly. The burning of the bush suddenly and the brightness of the fire got Moses' attention immediately, and he gazed with much intensity and curiosity. He just could not get his eyes off of the flame. Then, the most astonishing thing was that the bush did not burn up. This was the truth that produced so much mystery to the man of God.

Let me illustrate this by my call to the Gospel ministry. I got gloriously saved when I was nine years old, but there were a few years that I was not dedicated to the Lord. I'm sorry to say that I didn't even go to church regularly. However, after just a few miserable years of trying to run away from God, He truly got my attention. Then I earnestly began to seek His will for my life. The only problem was that when I began to believe that God might be calling this country boy to preach, this idea was such a mystery that it not only scared me, but it almost caused me to laugh. Why? Because it was beyond my comprehension that the God of the universe would call me to preach His Word—especially when I wasn't even a very good student in High School. It was probably as much a mystery to me as it was for Moses to see God in the burning bush.

Now, let me go out on a limb just a little bit. I would like to say that if there is no mystery in the call when God calls someone to His service, it may just be that there is no Divine call. Why? Because when the great God of the universe speaks to any finite human, there has to be some mystery in the experience. This is why I surely believe that there are many in the ministry today who are not called by God. If there is no Divine mystery, there is not a true call from God. The mystery may not be a modern day burning bush experience, but there has to be the mysterious presence of God speaking to an individual in a special way. We just don't grow up as a Christian and then one day just evolve into a God-called servant. There has to be a call that is mysterious and coming directly from God. You may be saying, "What is this mysterious call like?" If I could describe it for you, then it would not be mysterious!

## C. The procedure included the alertness of a dedicated man. vs. 3-4

As we continue to look at this wonderful text, it is very important that we see the next steps in Moses' call. Notice if you would in verse three that Moses decided to stop and turn aside to see the great sight of the burning bush, burning, but not being consumed. Obviously, God had gotten Moses' attention, but in order to hear the voice of God, which is mentioned in verse four, there has to be an alertness or sensitivity to the voice of God. And truthfully, this alertness only comes when a child of God is willing to stop, look, and listen—to use an old statement which we used to hear so often in the years gone by. God doesn't often knock us down to get our attention, but He will speak frankly and clearly and tell us what to do and where to go, but we have to decide to turn to Him to get the clear message.

May I ask you, "What does it take for God to get your attention?" Have you stopped recently and paid attention to the voice of God in your burning bush experience? By the way, please notice on point C, what I have said about this procedure to get the assurance of a Divine call. **You must be a dedicated servant of God if you are to receive and understand the call of God.** It is completely impossible to know the mind of Christ and His will for our lives unless we are living a dedicated and clean life before God. We must understand that regardless of how

dedicated a person believes he or she is. Unless there is a clean and sanctified life, there will be no discernment of God's call and plan. This is brought out so clearly in **Romans 12:1-2**, when these verses talk about **"Presenting ourselves as a sacrifice holy and acceptable to God" in order to discover the perfect will of God for our lives**. Regardless of what this modern generation of religious church pretenders say, God does demand holiness in our lives if we are to fellowship with Him and discover His call for our lives.

In verse four of our text, we are told that when the Lord saw Moses turn aside to see the burning bush. He called Moses from the midst of the burning bush and spoke to him personally. Please notice what I just said! God spoke to Moses personally and called him by his name. When God called Moses by name, then Moses responded quickly by saying, **"Here am I."** Folks, I love the way Moses responded. He responded immediately, and in his response, he said to God, "I am here Lord. You don't need to look any further, but I am here ready to obey your command." Can you imagine the intrepid fear that must have been in Moses' heart at the appearance of the burning bush and from the verbal voice of the Lord coming out of the bush? Surely, Moses must have been scared inexplicably, but he did not allow his fear to cause him to run away or meltdown in unbelief.

Moses' immediate reactions in this story tell me that Moses wasn't overwhelmed by his fear. He obviously had been talking to God there in the backside of the desert. In other words, if we want to hear the call of God clearly, then it only stands to reason that we must always have a good relationship with our Lord so that when He speaks, we are familiar with His voice, and we can recognize His voice instantaneously because we have been used to talking with Him. So, because of Moses' regular fellowship with God, he was able to recognize the voice of the Lord and respond to God's call right away.

D. The procedure included the affirmation of a Divine Master. vs. 5-6

Now we move on to verses five and six, and in these two verses we truly learn some phenomenal truth. First, God tells Moses in verse five to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. This verse speaks volumes. The content of this verse lets us know that anytime God personally speaks to one of His servants, the place of the encounter is holy or sacred ground. Thus, the presence of God in this vivid encounter is a reminder of the solemnity of this call. God needed Moses to go down and rescue over two million Israelites from 430 years of bondage by Pharaoh, and the seriousness of the moment revealed the significance of the task before the man of God. We might just say that when God spoke in an audible voice to Moses that He put His stamp of Divine affirmation upon Moses as His chosen man. The practical application is this, "When God chooses His servant and reveals His call to him, then this call shows the seriousness and magnitude of the work God has far ahead for the servant of God." We must always see that when God calls someone and places His affirmation upon this servant, then, the person being called needs to realize the seriousness of his or her call and the importance of the task before him or her.

In verse six, God gives an even greater affirmation for Moses' call. The Lord tells Moses that He is the same God that had been faithful to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore, He would be faithful in being with Moses when he answered God's call and went down into Egypt to free

the Israelites. Thus, Moses did not need to worry or fear because Jehovah God was going to be with him.

May I remind all of us that if God calls us, He will always be with us, if we respond positively to Him when He calls! We will never have to go it alone as long as we are in the will of God and responding by obedience to the call and command of God. There is no greater promise than to know that God will be with us all the way when we respond positively to His call. Please remember what the Bible says in **Matthew 28:20**, where we find these words, ***"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*** These precious words were given as a promise to the early disciples when Jesus gave them the Great Commission. The promise He gave them was wonderful, but we do need to remember that it was conditional. He only promised to be with the disciples if they were fulfilling the Great Commission and taking the Gospel to the lost world. So, God calls us, equips us, and then sends us out to tell the world the Gospel message. If we are obedient and carry out His call, then, He has promised to be with us even till the end of this age. As He was faithful to those First Century Disciples, He will be faithful to us if we have responded to His call with His stamp of Divine affirmation. As someone has said many times, "If God guides, He will provide."

### **III. NOTICE THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL. vs. 7-10**

There is one thing that every Christian ought to know. That is that when God mysteriously calls someone, He always does so with the purpose of using that called person to reach out to others and minister in the name of God the Father. The ultimate end of course is that Christ might be glorified in and through the effort of the one God has called. And truly, the obvious goal of God when He calls a dedicated believer is to help rescue those who need to be saved, either from the eternal punishment of hell itself or from the bondage of sin down here on earth. I want us to take a good look at the purpose for Moses' call as it is described in verses 7-10 of our text. Please don't miss what God is trying to teach us about the assurance of our very own Divine call.

#### **A. God's purpose for the call of Moses was salvation for the sinner. vs. 7-8a**

Please notice what the Bible says here in verses 7-8a. ***"And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;"*** Friends, have you ever read any more wonderful verses in the entire Bible? I surely haven't, and I doubt you have either. These one and ½ verses are some of the most precious that we can find in the blessed Book. Why? Because they show the ultimate compassion of our wonderful God toward those that are in the bondage of sin, mistreatment, wrong imprisonment, and other oppressive behaviors by those around us. Of course, and most importantly, these verses reveal God's eternal compassion and concern for those who need to be rescued from hell itself in order to eventually go to be with Jesus in heaven. So, the purpose

of God's call to Moses was for him to be the deliverer of God's people from sinful bondage and bring them out of Egypt in order to ultimately lead them into the Promised Land of blessing.

May I say again to every one of you readers that this is the main purpose or reason why God calls every born again believer to answer the call for his or her life and follow the path of obedience to whatever and wherever He might lead? It is truly one of God's ultimate desires to call each of His servants to the place where that person can be a rescuer in the work of God for the Kingdom's sake. In other words, God told Moses that He had a plan for him to become a servant with the primary intent of delivering God's people from bondage. Where others may never have been willing to go, God finally got Moses to surrender his life to the will of God and become the person whom God would use to extricate over two million Jewish people from foreign imprisonment and bondage.

Even today, God is still trying to call His children to become leaders in the rescue effort to win the world to Christ in order for them to be delivered from the fires of eternal hell. Right now, there are almost eight billion people in the world, and almost two and one half billion have never even heard for the first time the simple plan of salvation. Therefore, we desperately need thousands of believers to leave their private comfort zones and follow Christ as He makes the effort to rescue the perishing and care for the dying and snatch them in pity from sin and the grave. This combined effort is for every child of God, and no one is exempt from this responsibility. Therefore, we must step to the front of the burning bush of God's mighty call and say yes, because time is running out and souls are truly perishing to the tune of almost 89,000 souls in the world every 24 hours of the day. If we don't go, these lost people will remain in spiritual Egypt and die lost there without the message of salvation.

#### B. God's purpose for the call of Moses was schooling for the saints. v. 8b

Now, we need to deal with a truth that is not stated, but one that is implied, in the last part of verse eight. This part of the verse tells us that God wanted to bring the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage and prepare them for living in the Promised Land. In order to do this, Moses was going to have to train the people on how to live once they arrived in Canaan. They would have to be schooled on living among some enemy tribes that might be civil, while on the other hand they would have to fight against the evil tribes, defeat them, and run them out of the land. Please bear in mind that the entrance into the Promised Land would be delayed for over 40 years because of the fear of the people in the land and because of the lack of faith that would be demonstrated by their believing the 10 spies rather than trusting Joshua and Caleb, who would have a positive report. It is sad to remember, but since we know the outcome of the people's lack of trust in God, Moses' training sessions would last over 40 years and in the end, he himself would not be permitted to enter the land because of his disobedience to the command of God to speak to the rock which had provided the water for the people previously. In **I Corinthians 10**, we are told that that rock was none other than Jesus Christ, and striking the rock the second time, instead of speaking to it, implied that Jesus would need to have been crucified twice. So, Moses missed the Promised Land of blessing, but he had to train and prepare the living descendants who had come from Egypt to get them ready to enter the land. Therefore, there is the implication that the purpose of God's call was not only to rescue the two million plus from bondage, but also to train and school them for their Promised Land living.

There is a remarkable analogy here in this story concerning the purpose for Moses' call from God. You see folks, we too are not only called by God to go after those in the bondage of sin, but we are called also to disciple these new converts and prepare them for the victorious life here on earth until we all are called to go on to heaven. Of course, every new believer needs to learn how to grow in the grace of our Lord, but he or she also needs to learn how to fight the enemy tribes sent by Satan to attack us on the way to our promised land of victorious living. It is one thing to get saved and discover the full assurance of our salvation, but it is another thing to grow up in the Lord, discover the assurance of God's call upon us to go after others that need to be redeemed, and then grow these people to live victorious lives in the perfect will of God. Personally as a pastor for over 54 years, I just wish that I could get more professing Christians interested in finding the perfect will of God for their lives and discovering the call of God to where they fit in to the Kingdom work of our Lord. We also have too many people "dying in the wilderness" because they have had too little faith and not enough trust in the Lord. Certainly, God has a call for their lives, but they just never seem to pay the price to stand before the burning bush and uncover God's call. They will die having never reached their potential, but even worse, many of them will die because of their own laziness.

#### C. God's purpose for the call of Moses was solace for the suffering. vs. 9-10

Folks, it is wonderful to know that our omniscient God always knows everything we are going through. He knows the good times, and He assuredly knows the times of suffering, as He did for the Israelites down in Egypt. And more wonderfully, God not only knows the battles that are raging, but He is ready to send us a deliverer if we are willing to call upon Him. There is truly comfort or consolation for the child of God when we face the times of suffering in our lives. Let's look at the comfort that God gave to the Israelites down in Egypt. And, we must remember that He is just as much interested in our welfare as He was for the Israelites.

##### 1. Notice the cry that God had heard. v. 9a

It is so wonderful to know that when we are down in the valley and it seems that no one cares, Jesus surely cares, and He truly hears our cry. There is not one cry that is not heard, and yes, eventually tended to by our loving compassionate God. Sometimes it might seem that God doesn't hear us when we cry out for help, but be assured that this omniscient God is also omnipresent. This means He is everywhere all at the same time. So, don't believe that God doesn't hear you, because He most assuredly does. As I learned several years ago through a terrible vehicle accident in Africa whereby one of my best friends died, when God seems so far away or absent without leave, He is still there. He is just trying to get us to exercise more faith and trust in Him. I do remember sitting one day on the deck of a missionary's house overlooking Lake Victoria in Uganda following the terrible wreck we experienced, and God spoke to my heart even more surreal than doing so audibly. I can remember His saying, "Stan, if you have to feel me to know I am near, then it doesn't require any faith." My friends, God truly taught me a big lesson. The lesson was and is—"God never leaves us, but sometimes it seems He has, in order to teach us to see if we will trust Him by faith and not by feeling."

## 2. Notice the concern that God showed. v. 9b

Do you ever feel that you are all alone and no one sees what you are going through? I often feel this way, but yet, I know that just like God saw the suffering of the children of Israel down in Egypt, He truly sees whatever we are going through. The last part of verse nine tells us that God saw all the suffering the Israelites were enduring in Egypt under Pharaoh, and He provided a plan by calling Moses to go down and tell Pharaoh to let the people go. God's concern and compassion is phenomenal, and He always stands ready to send a Savior to command Satan to release everyone that is in bondage. He did this on the cross for us, and His death, burial, and resurrection are still efficacious to this very day. So, don't quit! Don't give up! The deliverer is on the way because God loves us, and He is ready to come to our aid as He did for the Israelites.

## 3. Notice the command that God gave. v. 10

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and commanded him to come closer and get the message from the Lord because He was commissioning him to deliver those Jews in Egypt who were in bondage and had been for 430 years. It was truly time for redemption and the extrication of God's people from the clutches of Pharaoh, who of course represented Satan himself. We may never know what God is doing behind the scenes to get ready to set us free from the sufferings and problems of this life, but we do know that Jesus was the once and forever sacrifice which paid for our sins and set us free. God's plan is always for our redemption, whether it be for our spiritual salvation or from the bondage of suffering and problems here on the earth. I would like to tell you that through my many years of service to Jesus, it has been my experience that when the bottom drops out and every kind of problem in the world comes our way, then God calls some other servant and in some way commands him or her to come our way to bring deliverance, encouragement, support, much leadership, and strength to get us out of bondage. God called Moses to go to Egypt and lead the Israelites out of the land of bondage, and I can assure you that if you are going through the slavery of suffering, sickness, and many other sorrows, God is already preparing someone to come and lead you out through the power of the Holy Spirit in that God-called servant's life. If they haven't arrived to help you yet, just remain strong because help is on the way.

## **IV. NOTICE THE PROMISE FOR THE CALL. vs. 11-14**

As we near the end of our study in these 14 verses of study, I am pleased to tell you that every time God calls someone to follow Him and become a useful vessel in the Kingdom of God, He always promises some great things to the person who responds positively to the call. Of course, in our text Moses began to make excuses why he was not the man to go down into Egypt and lead the people out. Moses just felt so inadequate for the task, and I believe he had a lot of fear because he had killed the Egyptian who had fought against an Israelite. Moses obviously knew that the Pharaoh of Egypt at the time he killed the Egyptian had been looking for him because of the murder he committed. Therefore, Moses probably felt sure that the new Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus might also continue the quest to kill Moses for the murder of the Egyptian. Therefore, Moses' fear was probably magnified many times over. But as we will see,

God made Moses the promise that He would be with him as he went down into Egypt, and the Lord also promised that He would validate Moses' credentials as he responded to the calling of God. Now, let's look closely at the promise God gave Moses.

A. Notice the contrition that received the promise. v. 11

As we look at verse eleven, we are immediately drawn to the humility or contrition of Moses. God Almighty has called this common ordinary servant and is intent on using him mightily as the instrument to command Pharaoh to release the people of God from imprisonment in Egypt. Moses feels so unworthy, and he expresses his unworthiness to God. It is almost as if Moses just simply can't believe that God has called him for this tremendous task.

Friends, this should be the attitude of every God-called servant. They should stop and try to imagine that the God of heaven and earth would love us so much that He would choose each of us to be His servant is truly beyond understanding. I love the lyrics of the old Gospel tune by Rusty Goodman when it says, "Who am I that the King would bleed and die for? Who am I that He would pray not my will, but thine Lord? The answer I may never know Why He ever loved me so; but to the old rugged cross He'd go; For Who am I?" And then folks, every time I stop and reflect upon where I was at the age of 18 when God called me to preach, I just simply get overwhelmed. You see, when God calls us to do a work for Him, we should never get over the wonder of it all. Moses was overwhelmed that the God of Israel would call him, and so should we be as well. It is truly only the humble and broken person that God reveals His call and will to.

B. Notice the content of the promise. v. 12

In verse 12, we discover the tremendous promise that God made to Moses. God told Moses that if he would obey His call and go down to Egypt to get His people out of bondage, then God would manifest His presence to him and be with him all the way. It was God's promise, and God has never broken a promise in history.

The word "token" here in the verse means "sign or signal". What God was saying to Moses was that if he would obey the call of God, then the Lord would give him His presence as a proof that he was on a mission for God. If he would be faithful to complete the task of redemption for the Israelites, then God would reward him with the privilege of serving Him on the Mount of Horeb where God would give the Ten Commandments. So, I believe that God's call for Moses to go down to Egypt and free the Jews would be significantly rewarded with the privilege of being the recipient of God's great laws for all humanity. As I write these comments on this verse, I must confess that after studying the Bible for over 60 years that I had never seen this truth before. God rewarded Moses for going to Egypt with the privilege of being God's chosen recipient to receive the laws of God.

May I say to all of us that God always promises His obedient children great privileges and yes, ultimate rewards for our faithfulness in responding to His call for our lives, just like He did for Moses! Truly, just like it happened for the children of Israel because of Moses' positive response to the call of God, every nation on earth will sincerely be blessed if God's people in these nations respond positively to the call of God. Yes, we all may be somewhat reluctant to begin with as was Moses, but when we eventually say yes, God blesses and rewards not only the

nation where He sends all of the people like Moses, but He also rewards the obedient individuals as well.

C. Notice the credentials within the promise. vs. 13-14

When Moses finally submitted to the will of God's call for his life, he was still somewhat hesitant because he didn't know how he would convince the Israelites down in Egypt to believe that God had sent him to be their deliverer and savior. He was also very fearful that Pharaoh would not believe he was God's man; although Pharaoh didn't really believe in the real God of Israel any way. In verses 13-14, we discover that Moses just needed some affirmative credentials that he had really been called and sent by God to do this seemingly impossible task for these over two million people. So, God just simply tells Moses to go down into Egypt and tell Pharaoh and the Jews in bondage that the great God of the universe had sent him. God said in verse 14 to just tell the people that, "***I AM THAT I AM: had sent him.***" In other words, God gave Moses His glorious presence and His mighty supreme name to give credibility to the task that was before him. Pharaoh may not have understood what Moses was talking about, but surely the people of God would.

So folks, it is still true for us today. When God calls any one of us to go forth and do a task for Him, then He amazingly manifests His mighty power and presence on the God-call servant. He demonstrates enormous miraculous power through the efforts of this surrendered child of God. Once this obedient servant has obeyed the call of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, there can be no doubt who the person's Master is, and the name of this heavenly Master is glorified. When God promises to be with us, and we let Him work through us, there is no question about Who has sent us.

## Conclusion

Now that we have concluded Session One of this special seminar entitled "The Assurance of a Divine Call," let me ask you again, "Are you absolutely sure that you have been called by God to the position that you presently are in?" Maybe you should just stop long enough right here to answer some serious questions in order know for sure if you have been truly called by God. I will give you these questions and some very important Scripture passages to help you determine for sure if God has indeed called you to His service. Please pay close attention to every question, but especially Question 3. Take the time to look up the Scriptures given to see if you can know for sure what your Spiritual gift or gifts are as described in these passages of Scripture. You see folks, before you can know if you have been called and what God's perfect will for your life is, you must discover what your spiritual gift or gifts are which was or were given you at the moment of your salvation. Once you know what your gift is or what your gifts are, then you can move on to discover if God has really called you to a certain task. Please do your best do make sure of your calling!

**Some Serious Questions In Order To Know If You Have Been  
Called By God To A Specific Ministry Or Task!!**

1. Are you absolutely sure that you have been saved?
  
2. Is there genuine evidence of the presence of Christ in your life?
  
3. Have you diligently sought to discover your spiritual gift or gifts as described in **I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4**?
  
4. Before making a decision to accept the role you are presently in, did you spend much time in prayer and Bible study seeking God's will?
  
5. In making the decision to accept the role you are now in, did you weigh the reasons and motives for seeking the position?
  
6. Do you get a spiritual high from your ministry, and do you constantly feel fulfilled in the service you render to the cause of Christ?
  
7. Have you carefully checked all of your motives for wanting to be in the position you are in, and if so, are these motives pure and do they align with Bible principles?