

SECRET OF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

By

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The Lord Jesus Christ left His glory and Kingdom and came down to this earth. He offered His whole body to be broken and blood to be shed. He became poor, emptied Himself and gave all, to be our Saviour. That itself is a proof to us that our Lord had a very grand and lofty purpose in saving us and calling us to Himself. In the beginning, Moses never knew why God called Him. But he knew God had spoken to him and called him by his name saying, "Moses, Moses". God's call to me for His service became clear to me two years after my salvation, but He spoke to me about His service soon after I was born again. A month after my conversion I went for a meeting. Nobody knew me there. As an utter stranger I was standing there outside the church building. One tall man came near me and enquired who I was. I told him, "I am also a Christian". He said to me, "Why don't you go to India and preach the Gospel?" I said to him, "Sir, I am an engineer. I spent so many years studying engineering. To make things worse, I stutter and stammer. To make things still worse, I am shy. How can such a person be a preacher?" He said nothing afterwards. But somehow these words came to me again and again. "Why don't you give up engineering, go to India and preach the Gospel?" I could not understand why, but I knew that the same voice was coming to me. Only after two years I could fully realize what God had called me for. So after we are born again, to have a desire to serve the Lord is good. We realize that the Lord wants us for something, and we have to pray definitely, "O Lord, make your call clear to me. What are you expecting me to do for you? Even though I know my limitations, weaknesses, failures of the past, and my handicaps of all kinds, I know you have some purpose for me". After you are truly born again that must be your prayer. God has saved you for something. He paid the price for something. You should find it out.

When God spoke to Moses, he answered saying, "Here am I" (Exo.3:4). Then God said to him, "...I am the God of thy 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" (v.6). And straightway God made him see the great purpose for which He had called him -to be His mouthpiece, as a witness, a servant and a messenger. That purpose is mentioned in verses 7 and 8. "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 task masters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the land of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of that land unto a good land..."

God wanted Moses to be His partner and co -worker for two great purposes. He wanted to deliver His people from the bondage of the Egyptians and to bring them to the land flowing with milk and honey. God saw that His people were in great affliction and bondage under cruel taskmasters. They were working hard the whole day and received no pay. The Lord saw the affliction of His people, heard their cry and wanted to deliver them from the bondage. He wanted Moses to be His co -worker for that great deliverance to .be wrought through Him. Secondly, God wanted Moses to bring His people into Canaan. "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 a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exo.3:8).

Even though God may not call us like Moses for a very big task like that, yet He does call everyone of us for some task. Whatever work He gives us, it is equally precious in His sight. To everyone of us our job looks very big like a huge mountain. Zerubbabel felt the same way. If you want to grow spiritually, you must be willing to hear God's call and obey Him. You can pray, "O Lord, please show me which way I can serve Thee, obey Thee and be of some use to Thee". Then He will guide you and help you day by day. But you must be conscious of the call of God that He wants to use you for His glory, for the deliverance of those who are in bondage and lead them to their inheritance. Those who are in bondage should be delivered through us, and after being delivered they must come into the possession to enjoy their salvation. We find that more than seventy-five percent of believers do not enjoy their salvation. They live just an ordinary life, coming for the meetings and going away. They do not have any understanding of the deeper truths of salvation. If we understand God's purposes, then through love and fellowship we can help such believers.

When God was calling Moses to be the great deliverer of His people, he was saying, "Lord, who am I? What am I? I am nothing. I know my weaknesses, and my failures, my shortcomings and my limitations. How can such a man be useful unto Thee?" By knowing our nothingness, and by understanding God's purpose in saving us, we become unto God more useful.

Now in Exo. 3:6 and 14, God gave His four names to Moses to prepare him for his great task. "...I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...And God said unto Moses. I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel. I AM hath sent me unto you". God called Himself the God of Abraham, God of Isaac. God of Jacob and I am that I am. Through these four great names God was preparing Moses for a very effective service.

The first name is "The God of Abraham". That has a double meaning. First of all, Abraham began to see the true meaning of righteousness. Here you have the true meaning of the Name. The God of Abraham. God appeared to Abraham twice in Genesis 12 and then in chapter 13. In chapter 14 He appeared to him. in the form of Melchisedec. Then He appeared to him in chapter 15 and then in chapter 17 by which time he was 99 years old. Only at that age, he began to believe in God's wonder-working power to give him a child. Before that he was hoping to have a child in his own strength, but when he became very old, that is, when he was a hundred years old, when both he and Sarah passed the age of child-bearing, when they had the least hope of having a child, then God opened his eyes. God provided a new power, a death-conquering power, to be poured into him to make him righteous and that is the power of resurrection. Only with that power he became righteous and it was imputed to him for righteousness.

God put new life into Abraham, and so he became righteous. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" (Rom.4: 20 -22). He could not glory in his own self or energy. We do not become righteous before God by our Bible knowledge, rituals and activities. By receiving into us by faith the power of resurrection, we become righteous forever. And that is the meaning of new birth, which is a great experience. It is by that new life and death-conquering power that

day by day we have to serve God, by becoming righteous in His sight. "...Jesus our Lord...was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom.4: 24,25).

The second thing we learn through the Name, the God of Abraham, is how Abraham became the friend of God. "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was the Friend of God" (James 2:23). He became God's friend at the age of 99. Before that he could have said truthfully, "God appeared to me; God spoke to me; I obeyed Him" and so on, but he could not say, "God is my friend". Only after Genesis 17 he became God's friend. We read in Gen.18: 17, " And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do... ?" God could share with Abraham all the secrets from that time onwards. By sharing our personal secrets, problems, shortcomings and failures freely, we also become God's friends. Talk to Him like a Friend. There is no fear in telling Him our personal secrets, temptations and failures. Share everything with Him as your best Friend. Then wait patiently for His answer. Similarly, ask God to show you His own secrets, His heavenly mysteries. Friendship becomes thicker when we share secrets. And that is how God could speak to Moses and He could carry out His task. As we walk with God like a friend we have the privilege of serving Him more fruitfully.

Secondly, God is called by the Name, "The God of Isaac" (Exo.3: 6). In Isaac we have the symbol of resurrection. The power of resurrection was available, not only for Moses but it is for all those who obey the Lord. That power of resurrection works in a threefold way. First of all, we become righteous by the power of resurrection (Rom.4: 25). Secondly, by the power of resurrection we conquer all our earthly trials and temptations (Phil.3: 10 - 14). That was the longing of Paul the apostle -to know Him and the power of His resurrection, that he might win the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. That is possible by conquering every trial and temptation by the power of resurrection. Whatever may be our trials and temptations, weaknesses and shortcomings, we can say by faith, "O Lord, in myself I am weak and helpless, having so many failures. Will you kindly pour in me your power of resurrection 'and make me an overcomer? Help me to overcome this temptation. In myself I am nothing. I depend upon you". That is the second way in which the power of resurrection works in us. Thirdly, by that power one day we will be given immortal bodies. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom.8: 11). The same power by which our Lord rose again will be poured into our bodies. When the Lord Jesus Christ will come back again, by the efficacy of the precious blood and by the power of resurrection we will be given immortal, glorified, heavenly bodies. But we must learn how to receive and appropriate that power day by day, and not depend upon our own human strength of any kind for victory.

The third name is the God of Jacob. When God first met Jacob he was full of fear. He was fully transformed after going through many years of severe trials. Then he became Israel, i.e. God's prince (Gen.32: 26-29). Then the God of Jacob became the God of Israel. God has given us a high heavenly calling in the Lord Jesus Christ to be kings, but very few believers enjoy it in experience.

Many believers live as beggars rather than living as kings. Instead of having faith they are full of fear, doubts and anxiety. Our God is the God of Jacob. He has

called us to be kings and priests forever, in His heavenly Kingdom. Now upon the earth we are being prepared for our kingship. Those who are washed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ will sing the same song in heaven as we read in Rev. 5: 9, 10, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." One day we are going to be with the Lord Jesus Christ as heavenly kings, as His co-workers forever and ever. First we will reign upon the earth for a thousand years and then we will reign in the new creation for eternity. Thus if we believe from the heart that my Lord, my Saviour and my Redeemer, has redeemed me by His precious blood to be His king to reign with Him, first upon the earth and then in the new creation for ever, then we can thank Him for every trial in our lives. Our trials give us the training for our position in heaven as heavenly kings. Thus we can overcome every trial, every difficulty and every hardship in our lives.

The fourth Name is, I AM THAT I AM (Exo.3: 12,14). The meaning of that Name is, the Lord will never change. What He has said, He will do. What He has desired and declared, He will fulfill. "God is not a man that he should lie; neither: the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall not make it good?" (Num. 23:19). In the case of Moses, God proved His faithfulness and fulfilled His promises. In the same way, we too need not depend upon our own courage or qualifications, but claim God's promises day by day and prove His faithfulness.

God prepared Moses for the very hard task of bringing God's people out of bondage, by revealing His four Names to him. We are also being prepared in the same way for an effective ministry. To become unto Him more useful and fruitful, believe in Him as the God of Abraham and be His friend, sharing all your problems with Him. Know Him as the God of Isaac, and claim from Him the power of resurrection for all your needs. As the God of Jacob let Him prepare you for the high position of becoming His kings by your earthly trials. Finally, know that the "I AM THAT I AM", the living God, the faithful God, will always keep His promises. Whatever He has said in His Word, He must, He must fulfill it. By experiencing all that, you will become unto Him more useful and fruitful. (Concluded)