

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF MOSES



- God raised up Moses out of a place of obscurity to lead the Children of Israel out of their bondage and oppression in Egypt
- God has a great calling for each of our lives
- Every believer has the potential to help lead people to Christ, to see them freed from their bondage to sin and fear and embracing true freedom in Christ (Jesus is the answer)

- Today I want to look at some things that we can learn from the life of Moses, who God raised up to be a great leader as we look at some *selected passages of Scripture from the book of Exodus*



Before I do, I will begin by looking at a passage of Scripture in the book of Jeremiah

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.
(Jeremiah 29:11-13)



When we put the *LORD* first in our life, we can be assured that God has a good plan for our life

- Today I will be looking just briefly at 14 things that we can learn from the account of Moses in the book of Exodus, to help encourage each of us that our life can make a great difference in this world for eternity



1) THAT WHEN WE STAND UP FOR OUR FAITH AND FOR GOD, HE WILL TAKE CARE OF US



- We see this when we look at the midwives who feared God and who did what was right, including protecting Moses as an infant and how they received favour from God

“But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.” (Exodus 1:7)

“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.” **(Exodus 1:8-10)**

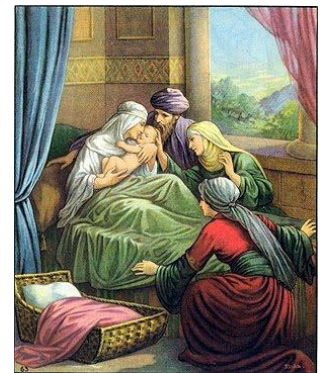


“Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one *was* Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;
¹⁶ and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”” **(Exodus 1:15-16)**



“But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.” (Exodus 1:17)

“Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. (Exodus 1:20-21)



Because the midwives feared God and did what was right, they received favour from God. When we stand up for God, He will stand up for us and ensure that our every need in life is met



- **Moses was one of the male children that was spared because of the midwives' refusal to follow the king's command to kill all male children born**

2) WE SEE THAT MOSES' MUM WAS PREPARED TO *TRUST GOD* WHEN SHE PUT MOSES IN THE ARC OF BULRUSHES (Nothing can abort God's destiny for our life except us giving up on God's plan for our life)



“And a man of the house of Levi went and took *as wife* a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months.” **(Exodus 2:1-2)**

“But when she could no longer hide him,
she took an ark of bulrushes for him,
daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the
child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the
river’s bank. And his sister stood afar off, to
know what would be done to him.”
(Exodus 2:3-4)



- The decision to surrender the child to the water was a total affirmation of Moses' mum's complete confidence and trust in God



- So too we need to continually trust the LORD with our future and to continually *pray for and entrust into the care of God our loved ones*

3) WHEN WE TAKE STEPS OF FAITH GOD IS ALWAYS GOING AHEAD OF US AND WORKING THINGS OUT FOR US (God knows how to connect us with the right people when we step out in faith)

“Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.”
(Exodus 2:5)



“And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So *she had compassion on him*, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children.” **(Exodus 2:6)**



“Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. **(Exodus 2:7-8)**



- This was part of God's unfolding *preparation* and plan for Moses' life

(When we look back at our own lives we will always see how even before we became a Christian, that God was directing our steps in life – Preparing us for His call upon our life)



4) WE SEE HOW GOD IS TRULY SOVEREIGN IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE LOOK AT THE LIFE OF MOSES - As long as we allow Jesus to be truly Lord of our life, God's plan for our life will come to pass



- We see how God orchestrated that Moses' mum would raise him up for the first 3-5 years of his life (Children were not weaned until they were three to five years of age)



- This would have enabled ample training to be given to the young Moses about the things of God as part of God's unfolding preparation for his life

“Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.” **(Exodus 2:9-10)**



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from
it.” **(Proverbs 22:6)**



5) WE NEED TO ALWAYS FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE AND ALWAYS BE RELIANT ON HIM

WE NEED TO DO THINGS:

- As God directs us to
- In His strength as we depend on His enabling power to do all that He calls us to do in life



When we choose self-reliance,
we choose to reject God!

- We need to do things God's way according to His blueprint for our life, and

- In His timing



- IN SHORT, WE NEED TO BE GOD DEPENDENT AND SPIRIT LED IN ALL THAT WE DO IN LIFE

- Moses though having a future mantle to deliver his people out of their bondage in Egypt, ran ahead of God's timing and plan for his life
- Took things into his own hands,
- Caused much problems for himself, and
- Was forced into a 40-year wilderness period during which time God prepared him for his calling

God's
Perfect
Timing



God has perfect timing; never early, **never late.** It takes a little patience and a whole lot **of FAITH...** *but it's worth the wait.*

“Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” **(Exodus 2:11-12)**



“And when he went out the second day,
behold, two Hebrew men were fighting,
and he said to the one who did the wrong,
“Why are you striking your companion?”
(Exodus 2:13)



“Then he said, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”

So Moses feared and said, “Surely this thing is known!” When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

(Exodus 2:14-15)



- AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST LEARN TO PATIENTLY ALLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE TO UNFOLD ONE STEP AT A TIME
- We must allow the Lord to develop Christlike character in our life so that He *can entrust to us all that He has planned for our life*
- God always first prepares the man before He gives them the ministry



King David wrote,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)



6) THERE ARE ALWAYS SEASONS OF PREPARATION IN OUR LIFE AS GOD PREPARES US FOR THE TASKS THAT HE GIVES US



- It is during the wilderness seasons of our life that God builds character in our life and we come to the realisation that we can do nothing without God's help – **Generally the greater the calling the greater the preparation period**

- God uses all of our experiences to help mould us and to prepare us for the assignments that He gives us
- Moses was in the wilderness for 40 years tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, as God prepared him to shepherd and lead His chosen people one day



“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.
(Exodus 3:1)



- It is during the preparation period that God will invariably get us to serve the visions of others. Moses served his father-in-law Jethro

- It is during the wilderness seasons that *God given visions die in the natural* as we give up trying to make things happen in our own strength



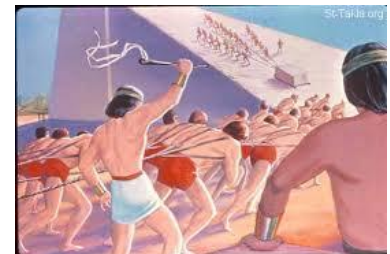
- It is then that they are *birthed again in the Spirit* as we now allow God to bring the vision to pass
- When we let go and let God do it

7) WE SEE HOW WHEN PEOPLE CRY OUT TO GOD FOR HELP, HE HEARS THEM



- God is able to deliver us out of our struggles
- When we cry out to God for help, we see that He is a very present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1)
- We must learn to not keep talking about our struggles but to seek God for help
- We have a God who is both willing and able to help us

“Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*.”
(Exodus 2:23-25)



The word of the Lord came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison,

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show
you great and mighty things, which you do
not know.” **(Jeremiah 33:3)**



WE HAVE A GOD WHO BOTH HEARS AND ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS

The Apostle John wrote, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)”



8) THE ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING ASIDE WITH THE LORD TO HEAR FROM HIM



We see Moses drawing aside to hear from God when he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God

“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. (Exodus 3:2)

“Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” 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.” (Exodus 3:3-4)



“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. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”
(Exodus 3:9-10)



- IT WAS WHEN MOSES STOPPED AND DREW ASIDE TO HEAR FROM GOD, THAT HE RECEIVED HIS CALL TO LEAD THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF THEIR BONDAGE IN EGYPT



- How we too need to draw aside to spend time alone with the Lord to get clarity of vision for our lives and ministries in this season

- We need to consistently spend quality time with the Lord if we are to see God's destiny for our life coming to pass
- As we spend time with God, He will reveal His plans to us for our life and ministry

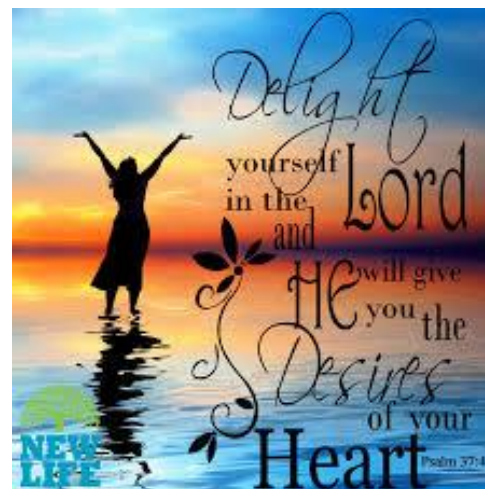


- Jesus Himself regularly drew aside to spend time in prayer with His Father in Heaven to seek His instructions. God's plan for our life unfolds over time so we need to consistently spend time with Him
- Intimacy with the Lord is a great key to knowing the will of God for our life and to fulfilling all that God has planned for our life



King David wrote,

**“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall
give you the desires of your heart. Commit
your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He
shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:4-5)**



In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean
not on your own understanding; In all your ways
acknowledge Him, And He ***shall direct your***
paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)



In the book of Isaiah we read,

**“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?”
(Jeremiah 23:18)**



How important it is that we regularly withdraw from the busyness of life and spend time in that secret place with God to receive His guidance and counsel to enable us to fulfil His plan and purpose for our life

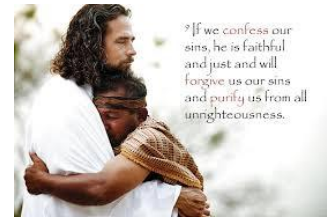
GOD HAS SO MUCH IN STORE FOR OUR LIVES
Every Believer can make a great difference in
this world for eternity

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)



God raised up Moses from obscurity to be a great leader after 40 years in the wilderness

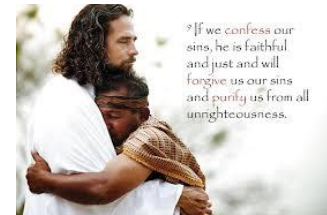
9) GOD IS ALWAYS THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES. When we repent of our past mistakes we can look forward to a God given future full of purpose and meaning



Despite Moses killing the Egyptian and being forced to flee from Egypt, God still in due time raised him up to be a great leader who led the Children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt

The Apostle John wrote,

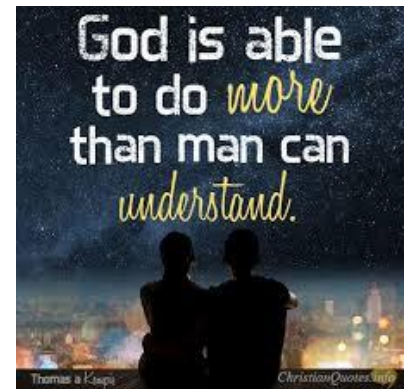
“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)



- We must never allow our past failures to stop us from moving on into the future that God has planned for our lives. He promises to complete what He has begun in our lives

10)WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN OUR OWN STRENGTH AND ABILITY

- We need to depend on God's enabling grace and power to fulfil all that He has planned for our life
- Moses was well aware of this fact



- As we step out to do what God calls us to do, we will continually see Him empowering us to achieve all that He calls us to do



“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?”
(Exodus 3:11)

“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.” 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? **(Exodus 4:10-11)**

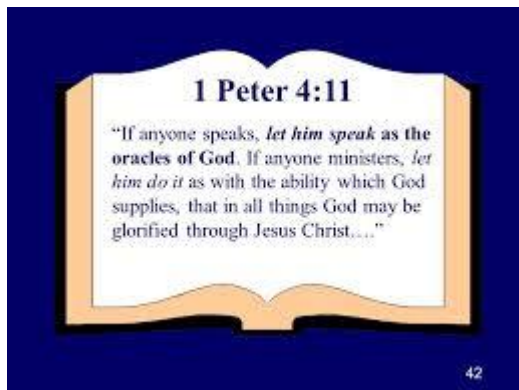


- **MOSES COULD SEE THE ENORMITY OF THE TASK GOD WAS CALLING HIM TO DO AND HE REALISED THAT HE COULD NOT DO IT BY HIMSELF – What God calls us to do in life will need His enabling power**



The Apostle Peter wrote,

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” **(1 Peter 4:11)**



11)WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT WHEN WE FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, HE WILL BE WITH US AT ALL TIMES – God will help us to succeed – God assured Moses that He would be with him



“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.” **(Exodus 3:12)**

“Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send.”

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.” **(Exodus 4:12-14)**



“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. 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. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.” (Exodus 4:15-17)



- God will also always bring into our lives who we need to help fulfil His calling upon our lives

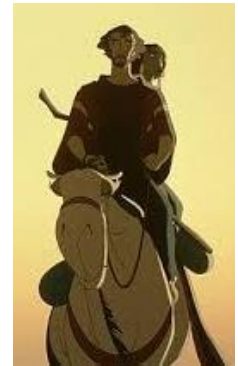
**As Christians we are Christ's ambassadors
here on earth and we have great authority in
the Name of Jesus**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

**12)WE MUST RESPOND LIKE MOSES
TO GOD'S CALL UPON OUR LIFE
AND SIMPLY DO WHAT HE HAS
CALLED US TO DO IN LIFE**



“So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who *are* in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.””
(Exodus 4:18)

“Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.” Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and *he returned to the land of Egypt*. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.”
(Exodus 4:19-20)



- **God has a unique plan for every believer's life**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)



- Like Moses we must simply be committed to doing what God has called us to do
- As we do, like Moses we will make a great impact in this world for eternity

**13)WE WILL NEED TO PERSEVERE TO SEE
GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE COMING TO PASS
We are all in a constant spiritual contest**



In chapters 7 to 12 of the book of Exodus we see that it took Moses several encounters with the Pharaoh of Egypt and ten plagues coming upon those in Egypt before Pharaoh finally let the Children of Israel go.

10 Plagues

Exodus 7-12



1. Water to blood

2. Frogs



3. Lice



4. Flies

5. Animals died from disease



6. Boils



7. Hail

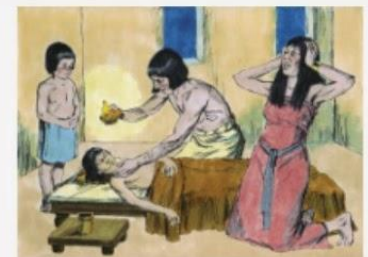
8. Locusts



9. Darkness



10. Death of firstborn



BEING PERSEVERING IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK IS CRUCIAL IF WE ARE TO FULFILL OUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” **(1 Corinthians 15:58)**

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” **(Galatians 6:9) AND**

14) FINALLY, SOMETIMES THINGS ARE THE MOST CHALLENGING WHEN WE ARE ON THE POINT OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR LIFE

- Sometimes God allows us to experience impossible situations in our life which cause us to cry out to Him for assistance



- It is in these times that we see God demonstrate to us that WITH HIM NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. As we see the miracles our faith is strengthened and built up

In chapter 14 of the book of Exodus, we see the Children of Israel in an impossible situation



- The Red Sea was in front of them
- Pharaoh and his army were behind them
- They had nowhere to escape

- We then see the miracle of the Red Sea parting to make a way for the Children of Israel to cross the sea on dry ground and to reach the other side safely



- After doing so the sea closed in on Pharaoh's army as they also endeavoured to cross the Red Sea in pursuit of the Children of Israel. **We see an account of this in the following passages of Scripture**

“And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” **(Exodus 14:13-14)**



“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” **(Exodus 14:21-22)**



“And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.” **(Exodus 14:23-24)**



“And He took off^[a] their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.” **(Exodus 14:25)**



“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.”
(Exodus 14:26-27)



“Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, *and* all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry *land* in the midst of the sea, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

(Exodus 14:28-29)



“So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.”

(Exodus 14:30)



- How important it is that we never give up on the point of a breakthrough in our lives**
- God is always able to make a way where there seems no way. WE MUST SIMPLY REMAIN COMMITTED TO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO IN LIFE**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)



SO, IN CONCLUSION may I encourage you today after having looked at the life of Moses and how God raised him up from obscurity to be a great leader, that you would



- Seek the LORD to know His will and plan for your life
- That you would persevere in following God's plan for your life so that many others will be impacted for eternity

- That you would simply allow the LORD to direct your steps in life (He has the best plan for your life), and



- That you would continually trust in God's faithfulness at all times and in all circumstances
- **In doing these things God can raise you up to do great things for His glory at a time when so many people are in great need of coming to Christ**

**I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,
“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly
abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works in us,”
(Ephesians 3:20)**

