THE PRODDING OF MOSES

By Keith Greer

"Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:10) God had heard the cry of His people in Egypt, and seeing the oppression of the Israelites, decided to send them a deliverer. God's messenger to bring them out of Egypt, was Moses.

What would be Moses' attitude about this great challenge to bring God's people out of Egypt? " ... Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11) Moses thought he was unqualified for the job, a nobody! How many times, when you have been asked to do something for the church, have you said, "I can't do that"? One thing is for certain, unless we use the opportunity, we won't be able to know for sure of our inability to accomplish the task!

What answer did God give Moses? " 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) How could he fail with God on his side! "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) God will always give us the ability to be able to accomplish what He asks us to do! " For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." (2 Cor. 8:12)

God gave Moses reassurance of His constant presence, yet Moses offered another excuse, " Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" (Exodus 3:13) Moses' thoughts were, "why should they listen to me?" "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14) Do you get the feeling Moses isn't really anxious to go into Egypt? Again, God tells him signs will accompany him, that they will believe that God has sent him. Looking at this excuse, I'm reminded of many who will not teach the gospel to their friends, neighbors, or loved ones. Why? "What if they get mad?" "He might ask me a question I don't know the answer to." Brethren, this is called a "self-defeating attitude". All we must do is plant the seed, God will give the increase! "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor."(1 Corinthians 3:6-8)   ,

" ... O My Lord I am not eloquent,... but I am slow of speech and of tongue." (Exodus 4:10) We are not required to hold people "spell-bound". God requires us to hold them "spell-bound' by the word of God! "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."(1 Timothy 4:16) "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."(2 Timothy 4:2) In answer to Moses' excuse, God gave Aaron, his brother, to be his spokesman. So Moses finally is convinced to go before Pharaoh.

We must have the attitude that Paul speaks of in the book of Philippians. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) Each of us as Christians need to understand that our strength comes from Christ—not us! Christians must remember, we are God's messengers, His hands, His feet, to take the precious message of the cross to those lost and dying in sin. If we don't do this important work it will be left undone. Too many of God's people are defeated before they even start because they depend too much on self and not enough on God! Our prayer to God should be that we may not have to be "prodded" to do those things we have the ability to do. Please, don't sell yourself short, or God—do what we have the opportunity to do and God will take care of the rest! Just try. ***