

• *Faith has many stages and aspects*

Faith has got many stages and many aspects to it. We may consider faith as saving faith, as diligent faith, as faith amidst training, as faith at the time of death – and so on. Basically faith is believing God, but there are many angles from which faith can be considered.

1. Faith is seeing things the way God sees them

1. Faith is seeing things the way God sees them. Moses considers the Hebrews in Egypt. He himself is the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. He is living a leisurely upper-class life, but he knows that he was born from Hebrew parents. Most people in Egypt, when they thought about the Hebrews, thought of them as being a small tribe of foreigners who should be used as slaves. But Moses knows about the promises of God and he believes in these promises. Faith is seeing things the way God sees them. It is seeing God as a Saviour, seeing His willingness to save me, knowing with a gripping conviction that He will save me.

2. Faith is the conviction that leads to a willingness to suffer

2. Faith is a conviction that leads to a willingness to suffer. Moses 'went out to his brothers'^{☐1}. He left the life in Pharaoh's palace and began to identify with the Hebrews. He did so regardless of the cost. It did not matter to him that he was losing his privileges in the palace. He knew that the promises of God about the Hebrews were true and so chose to endure ill-treatment with the people of God rather than the luxuries of the palace.

☐1 2:11

3. Faith is putting righteousness above profit and financial gain

3. Faith is putting righteousness above profit and financial gain. There was wealth for him in the palace, but Moses looked for 'greater riches than the treasures of Egypt'. His faith made him know that the reward of God was worth having more than the treasures of Egypt.

4. Faith is knowing now what everyone will know one day

4. Faith is knowing now what everyone will know one day. Moses believed that the future of the Hebrews was destined to be wonderful. Not many others believed that. Faith is seeing the way things will be before others see it. Faith is knowing, simply on the basis of what God has said, that things will turn out the way God has predicted. The Christian knows that Jesus is the King of kings. He knows that Jesus will come again to planet earth. One day everyone will know this, but the Christian knows it now. One day every knee will bow, but the Christian bows the knee now. Moses was 'looking for the reward'^{☐1}.

☐1 Heb 11:26

• *Moses not yet ready*

However although Moses was a man of faith he was not completely ready to be used by God in a great way. Moses' story is a story of faith but at first it is also a story of failure.

1. Sometimes God uses an experience of failure in our lives

1. Sometimes God uses an experience of failure in our lives. At first Moses failed in getting God's will done. He sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew^{☐1}. He thinks no one is watching and kills the Egyptian^{☐2}. Moses had a desire in his heart to rescue Israel from its slavery. That desire came from God but Moses' way of going about matters was not right. God did not instruct him to kill any Egyptian. And the time was not yet right. Moses did not yet have any clear call from God to be Israel's deliverer.

☐1 2:11

☐2 2:12

• *Moses tries to do God's will without having the leading of God*

The next day Moses intervenes when two Hebrews are fighting^{☐1} and one of them says 'Who made you a prince or a ruler over us?'^{☐2}. Israel was rejecting Moses' leadership. When Moses discovers that his killing the Egyptian was known he was afraid. Acting without God's leading leads to bad mistakes and then it leads to fear. Moses is trying to do

☐1 2:13

☐2 2:14

God's will without having the leading of God. Actually he will one day be the prince and ruler of Israel but he is acting prematurely.

• *Moses leaves Egypt a failure*

Moses has to leave Egypt^{□1}. He does so with faith but also with failure. He had deliberately identified with the people of God, the Hebrews, but the way he had done things had failed.

□1 2:15

2. God uses delay as a means of preparing using

2. **God uses delay as a means of preparing us.** Moses runs to Midian. He is a born leader and an energetic man. When he sees the daughters of the priest of Midian being badly treated^{□1} he rescues them and then helps them. It is precisely what he will do one day for Israel. He will rescue Israel from their oppressors. He will give them good laws from God to help the nation. Moses is a leader and a rescuer by his temperament. He was born to be a rescuer. He watched the Israelites^{□2} and stopped a fight^{□3}. He helps these girls. It is part of what he is like as a human personality. Yet he is self-willed. He was doing these things in Egypt in a secretive, shameful way^{□4}. He did not yet have any calling from God. Moses soon gets to meet the father of the girls at the well^{□5}. Not long after he marries one of them^{□6} and settles down in Midian^{□7}.

□1 2:16–17

□2 2:11

□3 2:13

□4 2:12

□5 2:18–20

□6 2:21

□7 2:22

• *Moses is a leader and a rescuer by temperament*

God is delaying before letting Moses do what he wants to do. (i) Moses must learn to do things in God's way and at God's time. His desire to rescue Israel is truly from God, yet he is not yet ready. He must learn to avoid self-confidence. (ii) He must learn to be in God's timing. (iii) He must learn through hardship. He has been living in a palace. It has been a life of luxury and ease. That is not a good preparation for the work of God. Now he is in Midian where he is a 'temporary resident in a foreign land'^{□1}. He lives in a desert and will stay there for years. (iv) He needed humbling. Moses became a very meek person but he was not born a meek person. He needed training. He needed to have his patience stretched. He needed to go through some suffering. Then he would be ready and God would use him.

□1 2:22

• *Learning lessons*

- *God's will in God's way*
- *God's timing*
- *Through hardship*

	<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)</i> books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
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