

• *Not Moses' law-giving here – but his faith*

1. Faith is careful who it identifies with

• *Pharaoh's grandson – yet...*

• *Moses understood clearly, by faith, that God's plans for his poverty-stricken people were greater and more valuable*

2. Faith chooses righteousness regardless of the consequences

• *Faith gives clear understanding*

• *Sin is deception*

• *Faith looks into the future and because of what it sees makes good decisions now!*

3. Faith looks for long-distance reward

• *The driving force behind the Christian life is the desire to have Jesus say 'Well done'*

After Abraham the next most significant character in the Old Testament was Moses. He was famous for the giving of the law but our writer does not mention that! It is not Moses' law that interests him but Moses' faith.

1. **Faith is careful who it identifies with.** ²⁴*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.* Moses was born with immense advantages. He had a royal education. Imagine being the grandson of Pharaoh – the most powerful man in the world at that time. What opportunities there were for becoming rich and powerful. What made Moses give it all up to become the leader of a mob of illiterate and poverty-stricken slaves? It was his faith. Faith gives us clear understanding. Moses knew that the God of the universe had plans for the world that involved the people of Israel. It was more valuable – because of what he knew was true – for him to be their leader and rescuer than for him to be grandson of the world's richest man. His faith made him identify with the people of God rather than with the rich and the famous.

2. **Faith chooses righteousness regardless of the consequences.** ²⁵*Moses chose to be mistreated with the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.* Faith gives us clarity of mind. We see clearly that it is better to have a few years' mistreatment and be part of the everlasting people of God, than to have a few years' pleasurable sin and then face the everlasting consequences. And even in this life sin turns out to be not so pleasurable after all! Eventually sin is boring and destructive. Eventually it brings regrets and sorrows. We find we have been deceived by Satan.

Faith sees the glory of the people of God. Most people looked at the Israelites and saw only a mob of destitute slaves. Moses looked at them and he saw the glorious people of God. Most people looked at Pharaoh and his daughter and envied their wealth and wished they could be part of the palace. Moses looked at the royal palace and saw something that was doomed to pass away. He was right. Forty years later Pharaoh's palace was to be swamped with the judgements of God¹. Moses' choice turned out to be the profitable one whichever way you look at it – but it took time for it to become obvious. Faith looks into the future and because of what it sees makes good decisions now!

3. **Faith looks for long-distance reward.** How was it that Moses was able to choose association with a group of slaves in preference to life at the palace as Pharaoh's adopted grandchild? ²⁶*He considered that it was better to suffer the same insults that Christ suffered than to have all the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking for God's reward.* As we have seen again and again in this letter the driving force behind the Christian life is the desire to have Jesus say 'Well done'. The 'fear of God' that the New Testament speaks of¹ is not the fear that God will be unfaithful to his promises and abandon us. It is fear of his chastenings, fear that we might miss his 'Well done!'

¹ remember
Exodus 7-12

¹ 2 Corinthians
7:1; 1 Peter 2:17;
Revelation 14:7:1

• *Better the rewards of God than the whole world*

• *Tough and painful but eventually leading to the rewards of God*

4. Faith is fearless because it can see God

• *Both now and in the future*

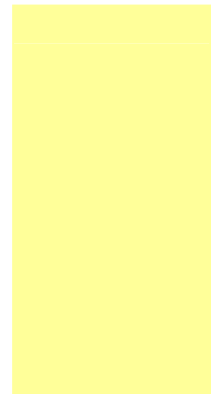
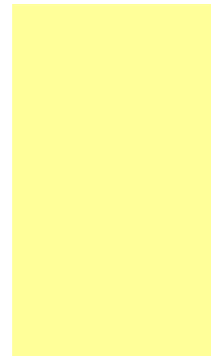
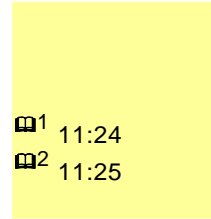
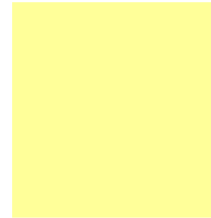
• *Fearless because faith gives certainty of God's reward*



This longing for the reward of God was so great in Moses' life that it made him choose membership of the people of God – with all of the insults and losses that it would bring. It made him willing to turn his back on immense wealth and power. Better to gain the rewards of God in this life and beyond, than to gain the whole world.

The writer speaks of 'the reproaches of Christ' or 'the same insults that Christ suffered'. Anyone who lives for God is likely to be treated in the same way that Jesus was treated – even if he lived before Jesus was born! Moses made a deliberate decision. He refused something^{□1}. He chose something^{□2}. It was tough and painful, but it would lead eventually to the rewards of God.

4. Faith is fearless because it can see God. ²⁷ *By faith Moses left Egypt behind, without fearing the anger of the king. For he continued in strength, because he saw the one who is invisible.* The rewards of God come to fullness beyond the grave, and yet we have a taste of them even now. In heaven we shall see God (whatever that might mean!) but it is possible to see God even now. Moses continued in strength because he could see God. It means that he was aware of God. He could see that God was at work. He looked forward into the future and could see God saying to him 'Well done!'

His faith made him fearless. This in itself is one of the rewards of God. How liberating it is when we fear nothing and no one. But how can we ever reach such liberty? It comes when we go on in faith amidst opposition and insult and our own many weaknesses. Moses lived this way and it brought fearlessness and confidence into his life. He left a fortune behind him in Egypt, but he would not have considered it that way. If you had asked him whether it distressed him to lose so much he would have replied, 'I did not lose anything! It was all gain! The treasures of Egypt are nothing compared to what I experience when I find God's reward at work in my life.'



	<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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