



February 18, 2017

Excuses, Excuses!

By Teresa Hampton

This year Gary and I are reading through the Bible together. We're into the book of Exodus, reading about God appearing in a burning bush and Moses offering excuse after excuse why he could not lead the Israelites out of Egypt. A fascinating sequence of words jumped out that I must share with you. Fifteen times God said either, "I am," "I have," "I will," and "I know," which revealed some amazing insights about the Creator:

- **God is eternal.** He told Moses to tell the people, "I am who I am" (Ex. 3:1:6).
- **God keeps his promises.** He promised Abraham centuries before that his people would be enslaved 400 years, but he would bring them out of Egypt and take them to a land flowing with milk and honey (3:16-17).
- **God sees the condition of his people,** "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt" (Ex. 3:5)
- **God hears their cries** when they were in distress (3:7).
- **God knows everything.** He knew that the Pharaoh would not let his people go unless compelled by a mighty hand, and he knew that Aaron, whom he had already sent to Moses, was a good speaker (3:19-20, 4:14).
- **God is the God of action.** He said, "I will certainly be with you." He came down to deliver Israel from the Egyptians, to bring them out of that land. He sent Moses to Pharaoh, He stretched out his hand and struck Egypt with all wonders, He gave His people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and finally, He said he would be Moses' mouth and teach him what to say and what to say to Aaron.

Moses' excuses and God's response to them make me wonder if I give excuses for why I am not more involved in the church. A person asks me to teach a Bible class. Do I make excuses, like, "I am not a good teacher?" I know that God made my mouth, too.

"I just don't have the necessary knowledge and tools to be able to take this position. So, people may question my abilities." But, doesn't God give me His word which endows me with knowledge and supplies every tool I need? (2 Tim. 2:15).

A brother asks me to come to his evangelism class. For a myriad of reasons, I *know* I am not the right one to send out and evangelize souls. But, Jesus commanded me to go into all the world and teach the gospel, "...and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

God is still the God of action. He keeps his promises. He will deliver me when I'm in distress. He knows everything about me, even the number of hairs on my head (Matt. 10:30). He favors me every day with the richest blessings, especially the gift of salvation in Christ. If I read and study his book, he will teach me everything I need to know while walking the Christian path. And He supplies brothers and sisters to help me when I need assistance.

Will you join me in this challenge? If we are tempted to make excuses, let's read chapters three and four of Exodus. And if we feel inadequate or not the right fit to do a specific work, let us remember that God will not ask us to do anything we are incapable of doing!

Today's Verse: Spoken by Rahab forty years later, "*...All of the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the waters the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt*" (Joshua 2:9-10).

Audios available at <http://christianwomanaudiodevotionals.abiblecommentary.com> Previous **Wellspring** articles are archived at <http://siwellroad.com/index.php?Itemid=62> To subscribe, send e-mail to wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com and type the word **subscribe** in the subject line.