

*Finding Hope When Life Throws You the Unexpected*

# What If...

*God Has Other Plans?*

CHARLES R.  
SWINDOLL

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*What If. . . God Has Other Plans?: Finding Hope When Life Throws You the Unexpected*

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ISBN 978-1-4964-3113-4

Printed in the United States of America

25 24 23 22 21 20 19  
7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*It has been my pleasure to serve alongside two very gifted and deeply committed colleagues in the ministry during the past many years. They have become trusted partners as well as close friends as we have served on the leadership team of Stonebriar Community Church, both “in season and out of season.” As a result, I love these men deeply, and I find great joy in our friendship. Because of the way the Lord has knitted our hearts together, I dedicate this book to them and their wives:*

*Charlton and Ginger Hiott*

*Don and Mary McMinn*



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# Introduction

SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS have always intrigued me. Many years ago, I learned that it's better to ask the right questions than to act like I know all the right answers. Questions make us search longer, think harder, and probe deeper. They escort us through mental doors that have been closed for too long, urging us to deal with life issues that are often troublesome to us but are rarely addressed.

Several years ago, I decided to put all this to a test. I asked eleven specific questions about complicated issues all of us have had to face in one form or another. Each question began with the same two words: "What if . . . ?" I then turned to Scripture to find answers that were reliable, understandable, and doable. Not surprisingly, the Bible had helpful answers for each question.

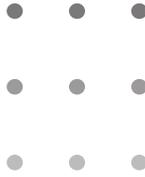
My search led to a series of sermons I brought to our congregation at the church I serve as senior pastor, Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas. Many people in our

church urged me to put the series into a book, so here it is for you to read and ponder and apply.

I express my thanks for my friends at Tyndale House Publishers. I'm also grateful for Mark Tobey, who has once again served as my diligent editor, making sure everything flows smoothly. I'm also thankful for you who have chosen to read what I've written. May it remind you to ask significant questions and seek reliable, biblical answers.

*Chuck Swindoll*

FRISCO, TEXAS



## CHAPTER 1

---

# What If . . . *God Chooses You to Do Something Great?*

God's Word for When You Feel Inadequate

AMY NEVER WOULD HAVE DREAMED God would choose her to do something great. The shy lassie, born the oldest in a family of seven, grew up in beautiful Northern Ireland, but not without pain. She and her siblings lost their daddy when they were young, leaving the family virtually destitute. Eventually she was adopted by another family who had the means to clothe and feed her.

She saw herself as “a little, ugly, shy girl.” In fact, she felt so unattractive while growing up that she shunned having her picture taken. As a teenager, she was diagnosed with a degenerative nerve disease that stayed with her the rest of her years. Ultimately that disease led to a serious struggle with arthritis, a battle she would fight the rest of her life.

Then something happened that changed her entire life. At the age of twenty, Amy was attending a Keswick Convention in England, listening to a man named Hudson Taylor share the story of his mission work in China. The year was 1888. The great missionary statesman told of what God had been doing in China and what he anticipated God would do in the future. He mentioned several times how good God was to choose him, of all people, from among the outcasts of England. By God's grace, he had learned another language and blended into a culture far different from his own.

Amy sat there thinking, *What if God could use me to do something such as this?* And from that moment, God began to do something great through the shy, retiring Irish girl.

After a chain of events sovereignly orchestrated by her gracious God, Amy wound up at the southern tip of India, only a few miles from the ocean. She spent the next fifty-six years as a missionary in that faraway place. Her calling was to invest in the lives of young boys and girls caught in the grip of human trafficking. They were part of a horrifying slave trade that ravaged the lives of innocent, unsuspecting children.

In those days, the trafficking was done under the guise of religion. Young girls were required to "service" the Hindu priests and those who worshiped with them. Their bodies were used, and in the process, their spirits were broken. Boys and girls alike became helpless victims. Amy's heart went out to these broken little lives, and she invested the remainder of her years reaching out to them with the love of Christ as she freed them from prostitution.

Before her death, Amy rescued and ministered to more than a thousand victims. The Irish woman was Amy Carmichael, who ended up publishing thirty-five books. At her request, not one originally bore her name. In fact, before she died, she made certain that her name would never be etched in granite. Instead, the children she had rescued, now adults, placed a birdbath over her grave, which remains unmarked to this day. It seems appropriate: an unmarked grave over a woman who was virtually unknown in her day. That is, until you read her words and discover that they are filled with profoundly impactful statements.

*From prayer that asks that I may be  
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,  
From fearing when I should aspire  
From faltering when I should climb higher,  
From silken self, O Captain, free  
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.*

*From the subtle love of softening things  
From easy choices, weakenings,  
Not thus are spirits fortified,  
Not this way went the Crucified,  
From all that dims Thy Calvary,  
O, Lamb of God, deliver me.*

*Give me the love that leads the way,  
The faith that nothing can dismay,*

*The hope no disappointments tire,  
The passion that will burn like fire,  
Let me not sink to be a clod:  
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.<sup>1</sup>*

What makes Amy Carmichael's words so magnificent is that many who read them likewise view themselves as little more than worthless "clods." Somewhere along the way, perhaps you have systematically talked yourself out of anything great God may wish to do through you. Maybe it's because you feel woefully inadequate or you lack training. Perhaps you're shy and entertain thoughts of being completely insignificant.

You look at yourself in the mirror and ask, *How could God ever choose somebody like me? I mean, it would be unlikely for God to notice me, to say nothing of using me greatly. I'm simply not qualified.*

Be honest, now . . . does that sound like you? Every time you look in the mirror, do you talk yourself out of something great God wants to do? But *what if* God has other plans? What if He wants to choose you to do something great? Are you willing? Would you respond in faith, or would you run in the other direction?

If you think you'd shrink from such a call, then welcome to the club! You're not alone. In fact, you're in company with one of the greatest individuals God ever chose to use greatly. This man's name was Moses.

## One Day . . . God Steps In

Originally, Moses was an unlikely prospect for the Leadership Hall of Fame. The good news is that God doesn't search through the Hall of Fame to find candidates for greatness. God often starts with losers. Washouts. Those with broken lives and downtrodden spirits. That's where Moses found himself the day he became aware of God's plan to use him to deliver His people, the Hebrews, from bondage in Egypt.

Upon first realizing God's call on his life, he rolled up his sleeves and took matters into his own hands. The scene is sketched for us in Exodus, the Old Testament book that chronicles the epic story of God's deliverance. Travel back with me to Egypt, where Moses grew up as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He is forty years old as the story unfolds in Exodus 2:

When Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

EXODUS 2:11-12

That's Moses, acting in the flesh. Taking matters into his own hands, he rushes ahead of God and makes a mess of

everything. To make matters worse, he is guilty of murder. Once he's found out by Pharaoh, he winds up a fugitive in the Midian desert.

The story continues with Moses, a guilty, broken man, sitting by a well in the desert. There he meets a young woman, who leads him to her home. Ultimately, he marries one of the daughters of the priest of Midian. He spends the next forty years of his life tending his father-in-law's sheep, obscure and forgotten, living like a Bedouin shepherd.

Now Moses is eighty years old. He sees himself as finished, never imagining that God still has a plan for his life. There he is, a leather-skinned old man, stuck in the remote desert of Midian, an arid, dreadful place. He's no doubt convinced the desert will be his final resting place. Nothing significant lies ahead. Until *one day* . . .

On that epochal day, everything changes for Moses. It begins just like any other day. He returns to his monotonous routine, much like you do when you sit down at your computer or go to work in your shop. Or when you're walking up the steps to your school. Or when you're fixing supper for your family. Or when you're boarding a plane to take the next leg of a business trip. Same song, forty-first verse. Until one day . . . God steps on the scene.

This is a good place for me to pause and point out three common mistakes people make when attempting to take life into their own hands, just like Moses did when he was a proud prince in Egypt.

### *We Run Before We're Sent*

There are times when we allow the intensity of our vision to shove us prematurely into our own agenda. Moses felt the need to act and begin the process of delivering God's people from oppression. Yet that's not what God was leading him to do. He ran ahead before he was sent. The result was an impulsive act that led to a colossal disaster.

### *We Retreat After We've Failed*

After we've blown it, our tendency is to retreat. We start to lick our wounds. We know we've made a mess of our lives, so our insecurity bursts into full bloom. In our insecurity, we begin our retreat. It's in those times that we begin to doubt God could ever use us again. Better stated, we become convinced He won't. Whether you've served time in prison, gone through a divorce, or committed an act of unfaithfulness in marriage, your shame may lead you to believe the chance for God to use you is over. Regardless of the reason for your insecurity, it may lead you to retreat after you've failed.

### *We Resist When We're Called*

As was the case for Moses, God has a way of stepping in and surprising us. In His grace, He chooses to use us even after we've failed. God may be speaking into your situation at a time when you feel most unprepared or wholly inadequate. Perhaps you feel that way because of your

age—you're either too young or too old. Or maybe you struggle with a physical disability or you battle depression or you have a dark period in your past that you're ashamed of. You'll do anything in your power to keep all that from being exposed. Whatever the cause, those feelings of inferiority block your ability to hear God's voice. So you resist because of inferiority.

Moses sat stalled in the desert for forty years, tending the same flock of smelly sheep. His skin was brown from the sun, thickened by the wind, and hardened from the continual blast of desert sand. His attitude matched the chafed exterior of his sun-beaten brow. Alone, washed up, out to pasture, long past his prime. An eighty-year-old has-been.

Yet that's when his real story begins . . .

As I mentioned earlier, it was like any other day. There was no angelic skywriting: "Pay attention, Moses! God will show up and speak today. Watch out for burning bushes—God is in the flame!" Nope, none of that. Moses hadn't been warned the night before in a dream. Instead, the sun rose that morning just like it had for the past forty years of his life in the desert. Another sunrise, another hot blast of the scorching desert wind. Then, suddenly, something happened that captured his attention:

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him

in a blazing fire from the middle of the bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't this bush burning up? I must go see it."

EXODUS 3:1-3

In that unexpected moment, God stepped in. That's how it works. God doesn't make preannouncements. He doesn't shout at us from some divine pinnacle. He uses "one day" moments to say, in effect, "Hey! Are you there? Are you listening?" That's His way.

## Unfamiliar Territory

In the desert, bushes frequently burst into flame in the heat of an intense sun. It's likely that Moses had witnessed this startling phenomenon numerous times. But this time was different. This particular bush kept burning, but it was *not consumed*. That's what held Moses' attention. He went to inspect the situation.

Once God had Moses' attention, He spoke. There are times when God wants to stab our curiosity, so He shocks us out of our routine. Routine is a subtle enemy. We fall into a mental rut, like stumbling into an open grave. And in that mind-numbing routine, we miss God's call. In those times, He often jolts us out of our mental fog and arrests our attention. Only then do we wake up and listen.

Moses was in for a major surprise. He heard his name: “Moses! Moses!” The voice came from the burning bush.

When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

“Here I am!” Moses replied.

EXODUS 3:4

Wait a moment! Moses answered to his name, having no clue who was calling him.

Now it’s time for a brief Hebrew lesson. After God called Moses by name, Moses responded by saying, “Here I am!” But in the Hebrew, there’s a nuance that gets slighted in the English translation. Moses said, “*Hineni!*” a Hebrew idiom meaning, “That’s me!”

In other words, Moses must have felt utter amazement after hearing his own name coming from the burning bush! Can you imagine? For decades Moses had been serving his father-in-law in virtual obscurity, having long ago left the prestige and renown of his royal life in Egypt. He was a forgotten man. Suddenly, out of nowhere, he heard his name. In the remotest part of the desert wilderness, an audible voice spoke his name.

That’s often how God works. That’s how He calls people to periods of great impact.

It all happens *one day* . . . when you’re least expecting it. When you’re feeling the least prepared and completely

ill equipped to handle it. It's then that He calls your name. Never forget that!

I don't believe God speaks audibly today—at least not typically. But in Moses' day, because the Bible wasn't complete, God spoke to His servants in dreams or through appearances by angels—or in this case, supernaturally through an object of nature (see Hebrews 1:1).

Today God may bring to your mind something you learned from the Scriptures. Or He may speak to you through a mentor, a godly friend, or a parent. Or perhaps you'll hear His voice through a compelling sermon or even the lyrics of a song. He certainly reveals Himself in the quietness of your times alone with Him as you read and search the Scriptures and pray. Regardless, He still speaks. And in those moments, He reveals His plan for you to do something great.

God stopped Moses in his tracks, captured his attention through a supernatural occurrence, and then revealed to him His plans. Perhaps Moses' heart began to beat a little faster, because the message was all about the Hebrews, who were still in bondage in Egypt. But what Moses was not prepared for was what he heard next from that same bush:

Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me,  
and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse  
them. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh.  
You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.

EXODUS 3:9-10

Now, if you look closely at verse 10, you'll see skid marks in the margin (actually, they only appear in the original!). Suddenly, Moses realized that God was talking about *him*. God had Moses in mind to carry out this master plan to deliver Israel from bondage. He was choosing him to lead the people to freedom. What followed was a classic example of resistance by a reluctant servant. Remember, we resist when we are called . . . because of inferiority.

### Anatomy of Resistance

Resistance comes from our belief that we know the situation better than God does. We're happy to have God take care of situations for us. We just don't want to be His primary instrument. Why? Because we think we know better than He does what's required for the job. Pay close attention: the best ten years of your life may still be ahead of you, but maybe you've already begun to talk yourself out of what God has planned for you. Like Moses, you have mounted a calculated resistance against God's clearly stated will for you and for your family.

If that's you, I know exactly how you feel. I was the least likely candidate imaginable to do something for God. I wasn't a great student or athlete as a boy. I wasn't very significant on my high school campus. I certainly didn't distinguish myself as a hero during my years in the Marine Corps. I was just another Marine. Yet out of a bush came a voice calling me to ministry. My first response was, "I've heard this before—but

from my wife, not from You, Lord. She has urged me toward the ministry, but I've resisted." (I didn't think I was qualified, and my inferiority prompted my resistance.)

So often when God chooses us to do something great, our initial response is to resist. To push back against His plan. To doubt our readiness and qualifications. Moses was no exception. He responded with four common excuses for resisting God's clear call.

### *I Don't Have All the Answers*

Moses feared he wouldn't be able to answer the inevitable questions that would come from his fellow Israelites:

Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

EXODUS 3:13

The first common excuse for resisting God's call is that we don't have all the answers. Moses protested God's plans by saying, "They're going to ask me things I won't know. I'll be dealing with issues way above my pay grade! Remember, I've only been talking to sheep for these past forty years!"

Human nature tries to convince us that unless we have all the answers, we simply can't believe God's plan for us. At this point, Moses considered himself the most important factor in the equation. It was all about *him*. That's at the core of

such resistance. When *you* are still important to you, you fear losing face. You're afraid of hurting your reputation. You're afraid of what people will say or think. You're afraid of being ridiculed. You fear your family's response to what you believe God is choosing you to do. What will your peers think? Yet God is undeterred by such fearful responses. His reply to Moses explains why:

Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."

EXODUS 3:13-14

Isn't that a great answer? "I AM." That will cover most of the questions. Moses needed to understand that God's call had nothing to do with him and everything to do with God! The only answer he needed was God Himself. Speak *His* name, and all the answers will fall into place.

I recall a conversation I had with my longtime friend Dr. Ron Allen, a Hebrew scholar and a professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary. He offered a compelling insight into this passage. He told me that when the ancient Hebrews were representing someone before others, they would use the expression "I will speak your name." In other words, instead of saying, "I will remember you," they'd

say, “I will speak your name.” In essence, that’s what God was telling Moses to do. God told Moses to simply speak His name. I find that truly remarkable—and wonderfully relieving!

When God chooses you to do something great, your response should not be about you (“I can’t”) but rather about Him (“I AM!”).

Such an approach provides courage and confidence like nothing else. When I preach and teach the Scriptures, I often feel inadequate and unworthy. Yet I don’t stand and speak from one Sunday to the next representing myself. I have nothing but an opinion, and it’s no more valuable than yours or anyone else’s. But when I speak from God’s Word, the I AM of the Scriptures is speaking. That truth provides great confidence for what I do and say.

But Moses wasn’t through resisting with his excuses. Here’s the second excuse he used to resist God’s plan.

### *I Don’t Have All Their Respect*

Even after God’s clear explanation of who was sending him, the reluctant old shepherd persisted in his resistance. He feared he would not have the respect of God’s people. Moses’ response reveals his profound sense of inadequacy.

Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The LORD never appeared to you?’”

EXODUS 4:1

You'd think that Moses would have been convinced by now. But don't forget: he was eighty years old. No doubt he was fairly set in his ways. In fact, his response is filled with several classic what-if statements. Those are what I call "worry words." Fear does that—it clouds our perspective and causes us to think of the worst-case scenario.

What was Moses worried about? He was worried about himself, and he was worried about how the Israelites would view him. That's a self-image problem. Fear keeps the focus on ourselves rather than on the Lord. It emphasizes our inadequacies and minimizes God's power. It's no wonder God responded with multiple demonstrations of His power:

The LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A shepherd's staff," Moses replied.

"Throw it down on the ground," the LORD told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back.

Then the LORD told him, "Reach out and grab its tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd's staff in his hand.

"Perform this sign," the LORD told him. "Then they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand

inside his cloak, and when he took it out again, his hand was white as snow with a severe skin disease.

“Now put your hand back into your cloak,” the LORD said. So Moses put his hand back in, and when he took it out again, it was as healthy as the rest of his body.

The LORD said to Moses, “If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. And if they don’t believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground.”

EXODUS 4:2-9

Why did God go through this elaborate demonstration? To convince Moses he’d have everything he needed to do what was asked of him.

The Lord’s answer was, “Just go, Moses. Take your staff, and stand back and watch Me work. Don’t worry. You will have all My power.”

God speaks that same truth to you, too. Especially when He chooses you to do something great. He not only provides His clear plan, He provides His unlimited power to accomplish what He asks.

Surprisingly, Moses followed with yet another objection.

### *I Don't Have All the Ability*

Still unconvinced, Moses raised another concern with the Lord's plan, pleading, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled" (Exodus 4:10).

Moses used a classic resistance tactic: "I don't have all the ability." Apparently Moses stuttered, and he'd grown very self-conscious about it. That disability became an issue in his mind when he was considering God's plan, which primarily entailed public speaking. Notice God's response:

The LORD asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say."

EXODUS 4:11-12

God's reply completely dismantled the foundation of Moses' fear: *I made you that way*. God reminded Moses that He was the one who had ordained everything about Moses, even his apparent disabilities, leaving Moses without excuse.

So many people I meet struggle in this area, questioning God's design for their life, thinking,

- I'm not attractive.
- I'm too short.

- I'm not that bright.
- I struggle with depression.
- I have a fear of speaking in public.
- I, I, I, I . . .

All such objections lose their power in the face of God's sovereign design for our lives. He has made us as we are so that He can be powerful in and through us (see Psalm 139).

Read that last sentence again. That truth alone has the power to transform your concept of a disability.

I'm sure Amy Carmichael must have battled similar fears and negative thoughts. Yet God chose her to do something great. He enabled her to accomplish remarkable things, despite her physical limitations, one day at a time.

I've experienced days when the same has been true for me—days when, despite my lack of readiness, my sense of inadequacy, or my fear of failure, God has enabled me beyond my ability. I've spoken truths that I never wrote down or planned to say in my sermon. I recall times when I've felt strength to accomplish a task that was not from myself. Such extra measures of energy could only have come from God's enablement.

God said to Moses, "I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say." Isn't that a magnificent promise—for Moses and for us?

By now, Moses was running out of excuses. Yet somehow he found a way to present one final objection.

*I'm Not as Qualified as Others*

Moses' final response invoked God's anger.

But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." Then the LORD became angry with Moses. "All right," he said. "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do."

EXODUS 4:13-15

The Lord doesn't need anything "special" from you or me. He certainly doesn't need our counsel. When He sovereignly chooses you to do something great, He doesn't need your advice on how to go about it. Moses failed to grasp that truth, and we often do too. We get so caught up in our excuses that we miss the entire point of God's call. He wants to accomplish something great through us by doing something great *in* us. Often part of God's purpose in choosing us is to grow our faith and deepen our trust in His power.

Moses' response wasn't so much humble as disobedient. It demonstrated a gross lack of faith. When you know for sure that the Lord is speaking and you don't take Him at His word, you're crossing a line. That's not humility; that's

disobedience. In fact, it borders on defiance! The only appropriate response to God's call is obedience. That's the lesson Moses needed to learn.

## God Is Still at Work

Before we leave this epic story, we need to consider two essential truths that emerge from it. Each one, when carefully considered, can be applied to whatever situation you're facing.

### *Never Believe God Is Finished Doing Great Things*

This statement is true if you're in your thirties or if you are well into your eighth decade of living. It applies if you're battling depression or in a difficult relationship or working a thankless job. It's true even if you've never seen Him work through you or if you could never imagine doing what He's asking you to do. God's not through with you! If God chose unlikely individuals to do great things in the past, He will do it again today. That's His sovereign right.

### *Never Believe God Is Finished Doing Great Things through You*

No matter your past or the struggle of your present, God may still choose you to do something great. He wants to demonstrate His limitless power through you and bring glory to His name in the process. You need to embrace that truth from this story of Moses' life.

My own story is woven through the verses of this passage

of Scripture, and I am the most amazed. I, too, stuttered for years, until a wise speech teacher helped me overcome my impediment. Yet I still feel the sense of fear that such a struggle can bring.

The idea that God isn't finished with us brings to mind another portion of Scripture that serves as a bookend to this lesson. These words were penned centuries later by the great apostle Paul. At the close of his ministry days, as he encouraged his young apprentice, Timothy, he wrote these penetrating words:

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

I TIMOTHY 1:12-14

Arrogant, insolent, unbelieving, blaspheming Saul later became the most effective communicator of the gospel of Jesus Christ ever to walk this planet. Yes, Saul of Tarsus! He never dreamed God would choose him to do something great. But He did. The rest is *His-story!*

## Fast-Forward the Scene

Perhaps the greatest lesson of Moses' life comes when we fast-forward the story by only a few days. Watch what happens when Moses and Aaron follow God's plan:

Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called all the elders of Israel together. Aaron told them everything the LORD had told Moses, and Moses performed the miraculous signs as they watched. Then the people of Israel were convinced that the LORD had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

EXODUS 4:29-31

Did you see that? God's people didn't argue. They didn't question the plan. Scripture says, "They bowed down and worshiped."

You know what I think? I think when Moses' head sank onto his straw pillow in his tent that night, he finally understood why the bush didn't stop burning. It was the beginning of what God would do to impact the Israelites for the rest of their history. It was all part of God's choosing him to do something great. So the next time you find yourself asking, "What if I'm all washed up? What if all my days of ministry and serving God are behind me?" it's time to change the question and instead consider, "What if God is choosing me to do something great?"

