

Many Christians do not realize that their simple talents, abilities, training, gifts, time, resources and connections may be greatly used by God for the furtherance of His kingdom on earth.

For example,

- A simple smile can be used to make a person feel very welcome.
- Some available free time may be used to prepare things for the service of God in this church and make it a more beautiful place of worship.
- A car may be used to transport someone to a needed appointment.
- A friendship may be used to invite someone to a service or a special meeting.
- An influence over an employee may be used to lend him a Christian CD, a book or a gift of a Bible.
- A desire to pray for someone may be the means by which he/she trusts in Christ.

So God demonstrates His power to transform the common into a Divine implement.

v.3 The LORD said, ***"Throw it on the ground."*** Moses threw it on the ground and it became a living snake, and Moses ran from it. In Egypt, the snake or serpent was a symbol of great power. If we are willing to "part" with our gifts and resources, and "cast" them before God for His use, then God can make our "powerless" gifts become "His powerful" instruments for the furtherance of His kingdom.

v.4 Then the LORD said to him, ***"Reach out your hand and take it by the tail."***

God told Moses to cast his rod on the ground and it became a living snake. When God asked him to pick it up by the tail, it became a rod again. At first glance to Moses it was just the

same as it was before. But there was one big difference. God had touched it and it would never be the same. It became one of Moses' most powerful instruments to be used of God. When God commissioned it for His service this simple piece of wood, this simple staff, became **"The rod of God's power."**

It was used many times in proving the power of God. The rod was used when Moses called forth the plagues (Exodus 7-9) and divided the water of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:16). It was used to strike a rock near Mt. Horeb, to provide water for God's people (Exodus 17:5-6). Later Moses held it high to gain victory in fighting against the evil Amalekites (Exodus 17:9).

As long as our gifts and resources are offered to God, they are powerful instruments for God's service. But when we do not use them for His glory, they become ordinary unproductive things in our own hands.

Whatever you use every day in your vocation of life, this is what you hold in your hand, and God can use it, if you are willing to turn it over to Him. So, let me ask you **"What is that in YOUR Hand?"** Are you willing and happy to use that which is in your hand today, even though it may *just* be a simple thing?

Are you willing to serve where you are?

It may be that God is asking you....

What is THAT in YOUR hand?

For More Information contact:

PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366

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You Hold The Key
Exodus 4:2



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You Hold The Key

Exodus 4:2

Moses is one of the most well known persons in history. Millions have seen the movie, *"The Ten Commandments,"* in which he is featured. In that movie, Moses is seen doing awesome miracles with his rod as he delivers three million Jews from slavery to the Egyptians. The most profound and popular one was when he raised his rod to part the Red Sea.

Exodus 4:2 describes how the shepherds rod of Moses, was "recruited" by God for His service.

Moses had a very unique beginning. He was born of Hebrew slaves, and was adopted in his infancy by Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:56). Pharaoh's daughter employed Moses' own mother to take care of him during his infancy and early childhood (Exodus 2:7-9). When he was of school-age, he received the best education available and mixed with the Egyptian elite (Exodus 2:10). *"And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22)*. History says that he became the general of the Egyptian armed forces. He therefore became one of the most powerful men in the most powerful kingdom of the world.

At the age of forty, he felt led to relieve the oppression of his enslaved people, the Jews. When he saw an Egyptian oppressing a Jew, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand (Exodus 2:11-13). As a murderer, he had to flee from Egypt - and he spent the next forty years in the wilderness of Midian, minding his father-in-law's sheep (Ex. 3: 1). During this long exile, Moses lost the use of his Egyptian education and Egyptian connections and he became a **"nobody."** He ended up being just a lonely nomadic sheep herder out in the desert. As a **"nobody,"** he was now fit to serve God

and deliver His people from slavery! You see, if Moses had delivered the Israelites from slavery when he was the general of the Egyptian army, then the glory would have gone to him rather than to God. If we think that we are greatly talented and that God needs our service, then God will not use us. However, if we realize we are unworthy to serve God, then He will use us.

The Bible teaches that God does not always use the most powerful or influential people. Indeed it is just the opposite. He uses the weak and humble. *"God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him" (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)*.

Our text is a very small excerpt from a long conversation between God and Moses in front of a burning bush, which kept on burning without consuming the tree. There God is addressing Moses at the burning bush in the desert near Mt Horeb. In Exodus chapter 3, God the great **"I AM"** had told Moses that he was to go to Egypt and deliver the Israelites from slavery. God told him, that when he goes to deliver the Jews, **they would listen to him** and follow his leadership. **But Moses did not believe this!**

1. MOSES UNBELIEF

V. 1 We read that *"Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" (Exodus 4:1)*. Moses is replying to God in this verse and he believed beyond doubt that the Jews would not listen to him! But the Bible says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11: 6)*.

Moses felt totally inadequate to serve God - He said, *"O Lord, I'm just not a good speaker. I never have been, and I'm not now, even after*

you have spoken to me. I'm clumsy with words" (v. 10).

Many Christians feel that God cannot really use them because they are not good talkers. They fail to realize that teaching and preaching are only two of the many spiritual gifts in the "body of Christ," i.e., the church. To do God's work takes every imaginable talent and gift. We all have something that God has given us or enabled us to have and He is just waiting for us to offer it up and give it to Him to transform for His use. Don't confuse the supernatural gifts given to the 12 apostles, with what is happening to Moses and what can happen to you. God is not speaking to Moses or us about the early Charismatic gifts but the very natural abilities we have been gifted with or have learned by work experience.

Look at what God says in verse 2.

Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," he replied (Exodus 4:2).

Note that God does not mention anything about his speech. He simply asks **"What is that in your hand?"** God asked Moses a simple question while Moses was trying to convince God that he was not able to lead His people out of Egypt.

The answer to his question was, **"A rod."**

It was a simple, yet necessary tool that Moses was familiar with in his task of herding the sheep. In other words, God says, "If you cannot speak well, then OK. But what are you capable of doing?"

Moses was shocked with God's question, because all that he had in his hand was a simple shepherd's staff – a rod. He probably thought that a simple shepherd's rod could never be used to serve God.