

Chapter 5. MOSES, THE MAN OF PRAYER

"So, Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. And the LORD did according to the word of Moses;" – Exodus 8:30-31

The patriarchal dispensation, with family life and the powers the fathers had, preceded Moses. Moses was the first man appointed to be a teacher and leader of God's people. In him as the servant of God, we find wonderful illustrations of the place and power of intercession.

Moses' Prayers. From Moses' first call in Midian, he prayed. He asked God what he was to say to the people (**Exo.3:11-13**). He told Him all about his weakness and begged Him to be relieved of his mission (**Exo.4:1-13**). When the people rebuked him that their burdens were increased, he went and told God (**Exo.5:22**), and he made known to Him all his fears (**Exo.6:12**). This was his first training. Out of this was born his power in prayer when, time after time, Pharaoh asked him to entreat the Lord for him, and deliverance came at Moses' request (**Exo.8:8,9,12,28,29, 30-31; Exo.9:28,29,33; 10:17,18**). Study these passages until you come under the full impression of how real a factor in Moses' work and prayer for God's redemption was.

At the Red Sea, Moses cried to God with the people and the answer came (**Exo.14:15**). In the wilderness when the people were thirsty, and when Amalek attacked them, it was also prayer that brought deliverance (**Exo.17:4,11**).

At Sinai, when Israel had made the Golden Calf, it was prayer that at once averted the threatened destruction (**Exo.32:11,14**). It was renewed prayer that gained them restoration (**Exo.32:31**). It was more prayer that secured God's presence to go with them (**Exo.33:17**), and once again it was prayer that brought the revelation of God's glory (**Exo.33:19**). And when that had been given it was fresh prayer that received the renewal of the covenant (**Exo.34:9,10**).

In Deuteronomy we have a wonderful summary of all this (**Deut.9:18,19,20,26**). We see with what intensity he prayed, and how in one case it was for forty days and forty nights that he fell on his face before the Lord (**Deut.9:25; 10:10**).

In Numbers we read of Moses' prayer quenching the fire of the Lord (**Num.11:2**); and obtaining the supply of meat (**Num.11:2,11**); of prayer healing Miriam (**Num.12:13**); of prayer again saving the nation when they had refused to go up to the land (**Num.14:17-20**). Prayer brought down judgment on Korah (**Num.16:15**); and when God wanted to destroy the whole nation, prayer made atonement (**Num.16:46**). Prayer brought water out of the rock (**Num.20:6**), and in answer to prayer the bronze serpent was given (**Num.21:7**). God's will in a case of difficulty was made known in prayer (**Num.27:5**), and Joshua given as Moses' successor (**Num.27:16**).

Study all this until your whole heart is filled with the understanding of what part prayer must play in the life of a person who wants to be God's servant to his fellowmen.

As we study, the parts will unite into a living whole, and Moses will be to us a living model for our prayer life. We shall learn what is needed to be an intercessor. The lessons that will come to us will be like this:

I see Moses was a man completely surrendered to God, zealous, yes, jealous for God, for His honour and will. A man, absolutely surrendered to serve his people, ready to sacrifice himself, to be the link, the channel of communication and of blessing, between God in heaven and people on earth. A life so entirely absorbed by his consciousness as mediator that nothing could be simpler and more natural than expecting that God will hear.

I see here how God, in answer to the prayers of one man, saves and blesses those He had entrusted to him, and doing what He would not do without those prayers. I see how the whole government of God has taken prayer up into its plan, as one of its fundamental parts. I see how heaven is filled with the life and power and blessing earth needs, and how the prayer here below is the power to bring that blessing down.

I see above all, how prayer is an indicator of the spiritual life, and how its power depends upon my relation to God and my understanding of, and focus upon, being His representative. He entrusts His work to me, and the simpler and more complete

my devotion to His interests are, the more natural and certain becomes the assurance that He hears me.

Think of the place God had in Moses' life, as the God who had sent him, the God to whom he was wholly devoted, the God who had promised to be with him, and who would and did always help him when and as he prayed.

Now for the practical application: How do we learn to pray like Moses? We cannot secure this grace by an act of the will. Our first lesson must be **the sense of impotence**. Then grace will work it in us, slowly and surely, if we give ourselves into its training. But though the training will be gradual, there is one thing that can be done immediately, we can **at this moment** decide to give ourselves to this life and take up the right position. Do this now, take the decision, **to live entirely to be a channel for God's blessing to flow through you to the world. Take the step**. If needed, take ten minutes for deliberate thought. Accept the Divine appointment and take something as your focus of intercession.

Take time, say a week, and get a firm hold on the elementary truths Moses' example teaches. As a music teacher insists upon practising the scales – only practice makes perfect – set yourself to learn thoroughly and to apply these important first lessons.

God seeks men and women through whom He can bless the world. Say with strong commitment: *Here I am, I will give my life to this*. Cultivate strong faith in the simple truth: **God hears prayer; God will do what I ask**.

Give yourself as wholly to people as to God and open your eyes to a sense of the need of a perishing world. Take up your position in Christ, and in the power which His Name, and Life and Spirit gives you. And move forward by practising specific, faith-filled, persevering intercession.

Prayer: Father God, here I am. I give myself entirely to You. I give to You my life, my time, my family, my ambitions, my career, my finances, my all. I believe that You, O God, hears prayer. In myself I am nothing, but your Spirit dwells in me and will teach me all things. Amen.