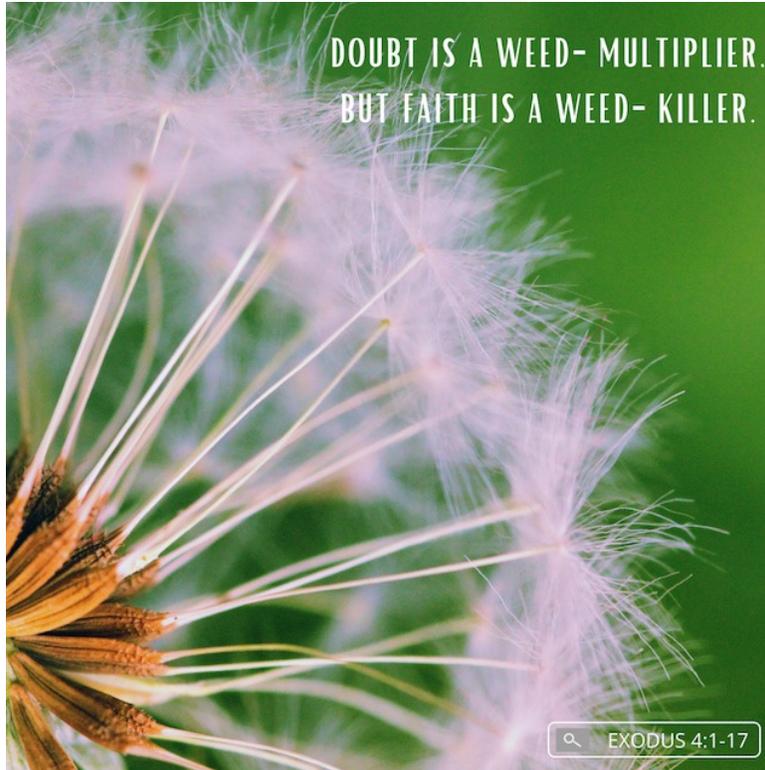


GOD'S COMPASSION FOR DOUBTERS

EXODUS 4:1-17



The weed of doubt never grows alone. When we plant the seed of doubt in God's Word and God's power the weeds of fear, disobedience, and pessimism also take root and grow. Very soon our soul is overgrown and choked with these ugly weeds.

We need a gardener who can uproot our doubt and its partner-weeds, and replant our souls with faith and its fellow-flowers of encouragement, power, and hope. We meet that gardener in Exodus 4:1-17 where God does this for doubting Moses.

- **GOD WILL CRUSH THE SERPENT'S HEAD (2-5)**
- **GOD WILL GIVE LIFE TO THE DEAD (6-8)**
- **GOD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD (9)**
- **GOD USES WEAK SERVANTS (10-17)**

LEARNING

GOD WILL CRUSH THE SERPENT'S HEAD (1-5)

God predicted that when Moses told Israel that God sent him to deliver them from Egypt, they wouldn't believe him (1). So God gives Moses a sign to prove his claims. God turned Moses' staff into a snake, and when Moses ran away from it in terror, God told him to pick it up. When he did, it turned back into his staff (3-4). When Israel sees this power over the snake, they will **believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you** (5). God uses the serpent as a servant to grow faith in the Israelites, by reminding them of his promises to defeat the Serpent in Genesis 3:15.

**THE SERPENT-CRUSHER
IS THE DEVIL-CRUSHER**

God can kill our killer, but can he give us life? Yes, God can give life to the dead.

GOD WILL GIVE LIFE TO THE DEAD (6-8)

God then gave Moses a second sign to prove his claims. He turns Moses's hand leprous and then removes the leprosy. **"If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign"** (6-8). Leprosy meant death, but God gives life to their faith by demonstrating his power to give life to the dead.

DOUBT IS A WEED-MULTIPLIER,
BUT FAITH IS A WEED-KILLER.

Will God do this for everyone? No, he saves his people but judges the world.

GOD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD (9)

Because Israel's doubt was so deep-rooted, God gave Moses a third sign, that of turning the River Nile into blood (9). The Nile was the life of Egypt, so much so the Egyptians worshipped it. But God will judge their source of life by turning it to blood. It's a warning to Israel that God will judge those who are not his people. There will be life for his people but death for the world.

GOD CAN TURN LIFE INTO BLOOD
AND BLOOD INTO LIFE

How does God get this message out? He uses the most unlikely people.

GOD USES WEAK SERVANTS (10-17)

Unsurprisingly Moses is terrified by the prospect of this, and says, "I'm no speaker. I can't do that" (10). **Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak"** (10-12). When Moses continued to object, God agreed to Moses using Aaron as his spokesperson (13-16).

OUR POWERFUL GOD SPEAKS
THROUGH POWERLESS SERVANTS.

LOVING

I love God's patient gardening here. It was a deep weed and therefore a long battle, but God eventually uprooted doubt from Moses's heart and replaced it with faith. In doing so, he also removed fear, disobedience and pessimism, and planted encouragement, power, and hope. Praise God that our devil-crusher is also our doubt-crusher.

LIVING

Believe and speak God's Word with faith in his power to defeat our greatest enemies – the devil and doubt.
