

## RESET: COURAGE

Scripture used: [Exodus 4:1 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

In the second message of the RESET series, Pastor Hurmon reminded us of last week's message focused on resetting our dreams. Now we have to muster the courage to implement the reset! The #1 life obstacle is fear. Moses was afraid to look into the face of God. He knew God to be love, power, AND authority. While it's easy to want more of God's love and power, the authority of God calls us to things that we may resist or fear. Moses protested to God several times ([Exodus 3:11](#); [Exodus 3:13](#); [Exodus 4:1](#); [Exodus 4:10](#)), showing timidity, diffidence, and tentativeness. He protests in every way he can: you have the wrong person; I don't know who you are; they won't believe me; I am a very bad public speaker! God overcomes all of Moses' objections and charts him with a history-changing mission and destiny.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) I + God = Enough. Our faith and trust + the God of all creation give us the fortitude we need to face the huge challenges of life. Courage is the ability to do something that frightens us. This means we must change how we think of being afraid (of job insecurity, children's happiness, health recovery...). The presence of fear is a necessary part of being able to act courageously; without our feelings of fear, courage is meaningless. So, we don't ask God to "flip the off switch" of fear; instead, we ask God to enable us to summon the courage to move forward and make decisions.
- 2) We must distinguish between impulsive courage (the reckless and daredevil kind) and faithful courage. Faithful courage is assessing costs and consequences, wrestling with tradeoffs, and yet following through and persevering with a bold decision! In relationships, we claim to be afraid that the other person is not "the right person" while in fact we're really questioning and protesting our own fit. Other examples abound, like what if I write a blog or book and nobody wants to read it? Or, what if I go back to school only to be met with failure? We must **not** be paralyzed by fear and avoid hard decisions.
- 3) The onus is on each one of us to think differently about failure. Moses asked "What if I fail?" (Exodus 4:1). Failure is an inevitable part of the journey of innovation, creativity, and ultimate success. Failure is highly probable, almost guaranteed. In parenting, marriage, art, business - failure happens and we can't erase our failures but we can learn from them, and adjust our conduct and decisions. In Exodus 5:20-23, we learn that Pharaoh doubles down on his cruel persecution of the Hebrews. Moses faces conflict, doubt, brutality, division, setbacks! Yet courage guides him through these intense trials.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What role does fear and anxiety play in your life? Is it a minor role or a major role? What is one instance in your life that you gave in to fear and regretted it? What is one example in your life when you faced your fears and are glad that you did? Do you have other examples about interacting with fear that make it hard to be courageous?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Review [Exodus chapters 2-4](#) and evaluate the course of Moses' life. What were the major ups and downs? Was any particular failure permanent? Are the fears you wrestle with similar or different from Moses'? When you consider that you are writing the "story of your life," in a similar way that we see the story of Moses' life in Exodus 2-4, how do you feel like God is calling you, and what prayers come to mind about how you would like to be able to respond to God?
- 3) **DO** - We were invited to pray [Psalm 118:5-7](#), and to choose to take a step forward in facing a significant area of fear in our lives. One of the things that makes fears even bigger is when we face them alone. How can others around you, including those in your life group, help you to face a fear that God is inviting you to confront and overcome?