

## “THE FORTITUDE OF FAITH”

Hebrews 11:24-29

Message 1621

How wonderful it is that God has given you, me, and everybody else the ability to believe. God has given to every man and every woman a measure of faith. That means that we have the ability, the possibility to believe. God has made us like that.

He longs to have you trust Him without reserve, trust Him absolutely. I can assure you, my friend, He will not let you down. God is trustworthy. Your life can have a fortitude, a strength, in it when you really believe in God. You may lack that strength now. Unless you really believe in Him, I know you do lack strength. But you desire so deeply to have that inner strength and fortitude. It is available for you.

Let me help you find **THE FORTITUDE OF FAITH** in a word from the Bible. The text is Hebrews 11:24-29.

*24. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

*25. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

*26. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

*27. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

*28. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

*29. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

With such fortitude of faith as Moses had, we can achieve **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** like he did.

**FAITH CHOOSES AFFLICTIONS** and finds the way down is the way up. Moses was heir to the throne of Egypt. He was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. It was the best opportunity of his time. It was nothing he had done particularly. His parents had hidden him at home as long as they could. After that, they put him in a little basket in the edge of the River Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him as her own son. He was heir to the throne. He could have ascended to the throne of Egypt, but he refused it. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He chose, rather, to suffer with God's people. He saw that the fleeting pleasures of sin, which he would have had the opportunity of enjoying as king of Egypt, were not to be compared at all with the favor and blessing of God's people, even in affliction.

He saw the truth because he had a faith that was strong. I call it the fortitude of his faith. It gave him that inner courage so necessary for the responsibility of leadership.

We must make choices with more than just the present in mind. We must seek the fortitude of faith in God which empowers us to make choices like Moses made. His fortitude of faith chose afflictions. That fortitude will enable us to choose afflictions rather than the pleasures of sin.

**FAITH CONSIDERS REWARD** of the present in view of eternity. Notice Moses again. He carefully took account of lasting riches. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.

My friend, I have been in the museum in Cairo, Egypt, and I have seen some of the riches of Egypt's past. When I think how Moses considered the rewards and took the path he did, I understand much better that he must have had great fortitude of faith. He looked to the end. That was important, most important. He left Egypt with a faith that considered God in his future. He forsook Egypt. He was not afraid of the king's anger because he saw God who was invisible.

Moses had the kind of faith that gave him inner fortitude. We must consider the rewards at the end. We cannot simply look at the moment in making our decisions. We must consider the end rewards. The fortitude of faith in God will enable us to consider the rewards like Moses did.

**FAITH CONQUERS DEATH** in obeying the plan of God for redemption. Moses accepted God's word. This Scripture refers to the Passover. The Passover was the last judgment upon Pharaoh and Egypt in the days when Moses brought the people of Israel out of Egypt several thousand years ago. God had said He was going to pass through the land and the firstborn of man and beast in every home would be killed. Death would be in every home UNLESS they would kill a lamb and apply the blood on the lintel and doorposts of their houses, and then stay in their houses until God's angel had passed through the land.

Moses and the people of Israel did that. Their firstborn sons and cattle were saved. The Egyptians did not do that and, therefore, they suffered the loss. Moses kept that Passover by faith. The fortitude of his faith caused him to accept God's word. He did exactly what God said. In that way he triumphed, he conquered death.

When the people of Israel came to the Red Sea in their exodus, it looked as though it were impossible for them to cross. But Moses expected God's deliverance. The Red Sea was impassable until God intervened. By God's miracle the people were saved and death was conquered. They passed through the Red Sea as on dry land. But when the Egyptians attempted to do it they were drowned.

You see, faith conquers death. Now we can conquer death even more assuredly with the fortitude of faith. Jesus Christ once said, "Because I live, you shall live also." The fortitude of faith will enable us to triumph in Jesus Christ over eternal death.

The fortitude of faith will do for you as much as it did for Moses, if you will apply it. Put your faith in Moses' God. Trust in the same God Moses trusted in and you will be enabled to choose afflictions; you will be enabled to consider the rewards; and you will be enabled to conquer death with triumph. I urge you now to put your faith absolutely in God and you will receive an inner fortitude that you do not now possess.