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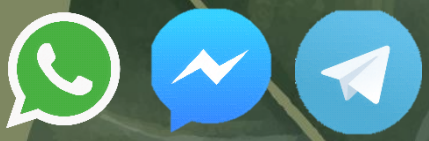
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The Lord wants to Use You

By: Andrew Roebert

In the book of Exodus, we read a great story of God's intervention in the lives of His people. We see a series of miracles and interventions that led to the deliverance of the nation, from bondage and slavery, to a land flowing with 'milk and honey'. Within this story, of divine intervention, there is a story of a man, and his name was Moses. Moses was appointed, positioned and used by the Lord to facilitate freedom for an entire nation. It is interesting to see how this happened and the lengths God went to, to make use of Moses, to do great things. In the same way, amid your story, the Lord wants to use you. Perhaps we can learn some lessons from this remarkable account of the difference one person can make in the lives of people around him.

God Always Has A Plan

No matter what may be going on or what we may be going through, the Lord always has a plan, and this plan is to move us towards something better. In the Exodus story we see God's plan in Exodus 5:1 'Let my people go...' His plan was to free His people from oppression and hardship and give them their own land. His plan was not easy at first, in fact things got worse before they got better. The Truth of the matter was that God was working in the lives of all the people involved, the Nation of Israel, Pharaoh and the Egyptians and in the life of Moses. The Lord knew that Pharaoh would not just go,





because he was enjoying the benefit of having them in his land and had come to depend on them. For the people to be totally free, Pharaoh would have to get to the point of rejecting them and driving them out of his kingdom. The Lord knew this, and part of his plan was to bring things to this critical point.

Exodus 6:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of My mighty hand he will let them go; because of My mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.'

Against All Odds

Sometimes our situations must reach that critical point where all the different aspects can come together to bring the breakthrough. During this time frame, things may appear to be moving slowly or not at all. It may even seem as if things are getting worse and that breakthrough will never be a possibility - but God is working with a plan. In fact, He always has a plan. Although we may not see it, it is slowly unfolding.

Romans 8:28 'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.'

Notice these words: 'causes everything' to 'work together' for 'the good'!

Moses was the first-born son of a new marriage, and he was born into a situation of divine order.

Exodus 2:1-2 'Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.'

From the time of his birth, people could see that this child was special and beautiful.

Exodus 2:2 '...she (his mother) saw that he was a beautiful child...'

Other translations say that he was a fine child, a special child and a goodly child (pleasantly attractive and significant).

So here we have this special and significant child born at time of great hardship and struggle.

Even though the circumstances of his conception and birth were ideal and he was born blessed, everything else was against him. His parents were part of a nation that was being mistreated and oppressed. He was born into a nation of slaves, who had bitter lives of hard work and toil. To make matters worse, Pharaoh had given instructions that all the boy children had to be killed as soon as they were born. When this did not work, he instructed his people to throw new-born boys into the Nile river. His mother had arranged to hide him for three months, but she could no longer hide him and so made the decision to let him go and let fate take its course.

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Exodus 2:3 'When she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.'

Against all odds, he was discovered by one of Pharaoh's daughters and was taken in and raised as a prince in Egypt.

Running Away

Due to circumstances that had happened and things that Moses had done, he ended up running away. The Living Bible says it so well: Exodus 2:15 'Moses ran away into the land of Median.'

- It was also here that he spent many hours looking after his fathers-in-law's animals.

Exodus 2:21-22 Moses accepted the invitation, and he settled there with him. In time, Reuel gave Moses his daughter Zipporah to be his wife. Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, for he explained, 'I have been a foreigner in a foreign land.'

How often things happen in our lives and we end up running away and we find ourselves in a wilderness period. No experience we go through is ever wasted. God uses every experience and process we go through to ultimately bring us back to His purpose and plan for our lives.

A time of Preparation

Moses spent 40 years in exile in the wilderness. But these were not wasted years. The Lord used these years to work in Moses' heart and to change him and bring him to a place of total surrender and reliance on the Lord. Often, we may think that there are many wasted years in our lives, but nothing is ever wasted with God.

The 40 years that Moses spent in the wilderness was a time of preparation. Never underestimate the importance of preparation

1. Preparation brings lasting results.
Before you can paint out a room, you need to prepare the walls for the paint. Even if the wall surface is in perfect condition, some preparation must be done before applying new paint. Once the wall is prepared the paint can be applied. Painting unprepared walls will result in undesirable results. Skipping the preparation stage brings regrets later.

2. Preparation brings us to the place of authority.
Take someone, who takes years out of his life to study in a certain field. After the period of preparation is completed, they have the authority to speak about that field of knowledge.

3. Preparation and opportunity eventually meet.
If we will allow the preparation stage of our lives to be completed, that preparation will eventually lead us to opportunity.

An Appointed Time

Moses went through this period of preparation. We know little about the 40 years in the wilderness (preparation), but we know a lot about the results. In one day, everything changed.

Exodus 3:1-4 One day... the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. God called to him from the middle of the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' 'Here I am!' Moses replied.

At the appointed time, after the preparation, opportunity arrived. The opportunity was the privilege of being used by God to bring the long-awaited freedom his nation had so longed for.

Exodus 3:10 'Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.'

God had planned to use Moses for this calling and opportunity. He had allowed the season of preparation and the Lord had never given up on Moses. Moses was His 'Plan A' and there was no 'Plan B'. The Lord wants to use each one of us. He has taken us through our own period of preparation, and He has a plan for our lives. Be ready for that 'one day'!

Doubt – The Biggest Hurdle

The biggest hurdle that Moses had to overcome was his doubts and fears. God believed in him, and the Lord had prepared him, but he had some challenging hesitations. It is amazing how that, at the very moment of opportunity, we can come up with many reasons and excuses, not to follow through with what God tells us to do

Exodus 3:11 'I'm not the person for a job like that!' Moses exclaimed.

Exodus 4:1 But Moses said, 'They won't believe me!' (Living Bible)

Exodus 4:13 But Moses said, 'Lord, please! Send someone else.'

Doubt, fear, and excuses are hurdles in the way of being used by God. Do not let them rob you of a life that is used by God. There is no greater joy in life, than being used by God. You may say, times are difficult, there is a global pandemic raging, I cannot do anything, but you can if God is with you.

Obedience, Breakthrough & Deliverance

In His faithfulness, God promises to be with Moses.

Exodus 3:12 The God told him, 'I will certainly be with you!'

Exodus 4:19 The LORD said to him, 'Return to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you have died.'

Moses obeyed. He made the decision, despite all his fears, doubts, and excuses, he took up the challenge.

Exodus 4:20 'Moses took his wife and sons and headed back to Egypt.'

Moses went to Egypt and the story of miracles, breakthrough and deliverance began to unfold. The Lord used Moses to bring about great things. Moses became, 'Moses - the great deliverer!' If you will follow the Lord's leading and His direction, He will use you, in ways you could never begin to imagine. The Lord wants to use you. The mere fact that you are reading this, could be a 'burning bush' experience for you. You are standing on holy ground, this is a sacred moment, the Lord wants to use you. Take up your position, get up and do what He tells you to do. 'Do whatever HE tells you.'

What is the Character Of God?

By: GotQuestions.org



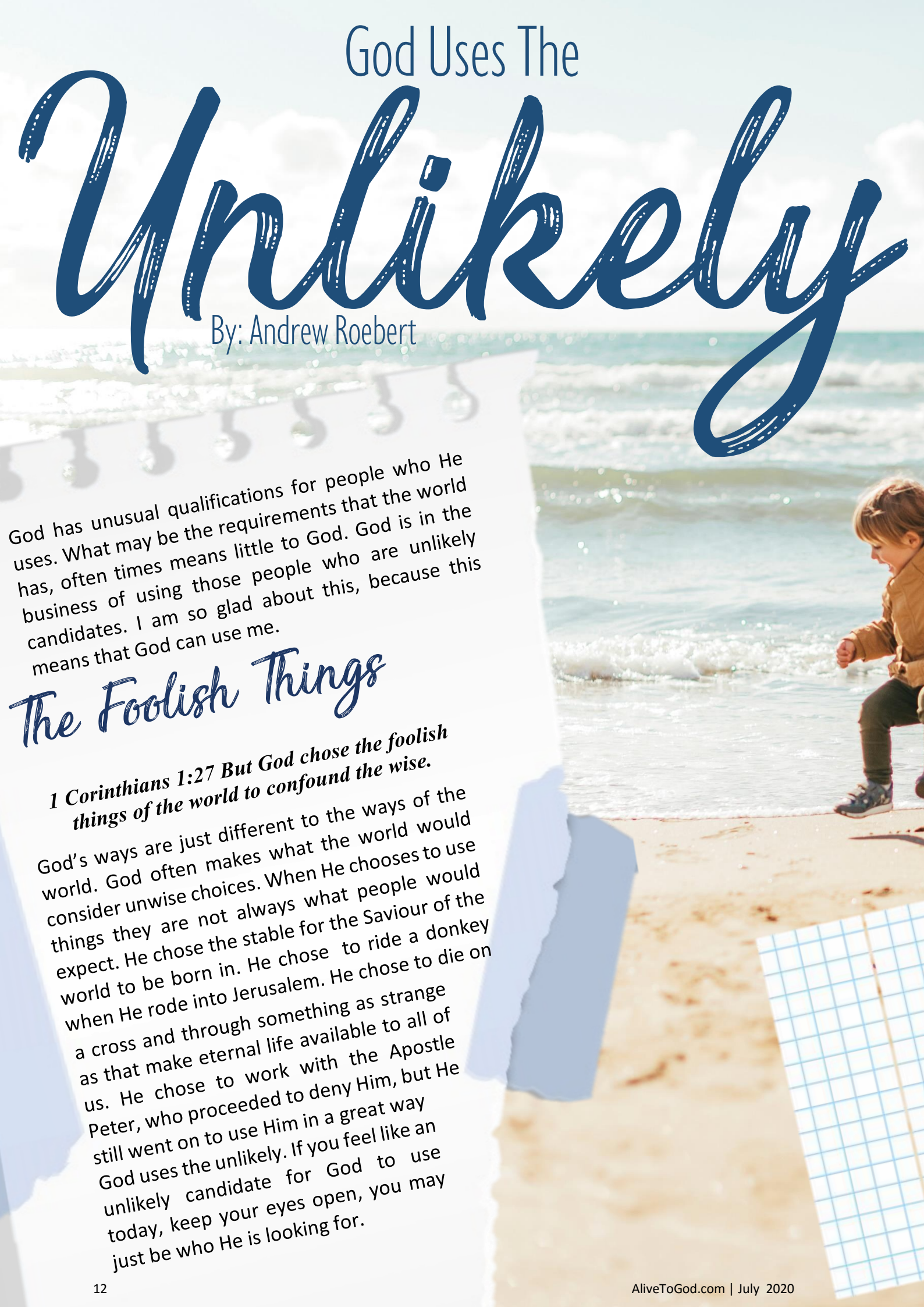
The Bible reveals a detailed portrait of the character of God. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of God's character is that He is a loving Father to all believers (Ephesians 1:2; Galatians 1:1; Colossians 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:3). God, by His nature, is wholly good (Mark 10:18; 1 Timothy 4:4). His goodness is unmatched, and because of it, we can trust in Him: "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7). In His goodness, God has our best interests at heart: "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose". Everything God does is an expression of His goodness and is designed to benefit His people. God's holiness is unequaled: "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2). There is no stain of evil or impurity in God: "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5; see also Psalm 12:6; 19:8). Another defining characteristic of God is His righteousness, meaning He exists in a state of moral perfection: "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25–26). God is also just; He is perfectly upright and fair in how he treats His creation: "Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, He will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" (Isaiah 30:18; see also Deuteronomy 32:4; Zephaniah 3:5; Acts 17:31; Revelation 16:5–6). Loving, compassionate, gracious, kind,

and merciful are all central descriptions of the character of God. So kindhearted and caring is He that Scripture says, “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16). The psalmist describes God as “compassionate and gracious” and “abounding in love and faithfulness” (Psalm 86:15). So great is God’s love for us “that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Because of His great love, Christ died for us, even while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). God’s mercy and compassion never fail; they are renewed continuously toward us day in and day out (Lamentations 3:22–23). Part of God’s character is faithfulness: “God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). In our struggles and failures, God is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sin and return to Him: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). In times when we stumble, it is encouraging to know that God will never abandon us. Even when we are utterly unfaithful, God remains faithful and true because that is who He is; it is God’s character to be faithful (2 Timothy 2:13). God is truthful, and His Word is true: “We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

God and His Word form a trustworthy foundation for life (Psalm 12:6). In Him is no falsehood, lies, or deception (Numbers 23:19; Isaiah 45:19; Romans 1:25; Hebrews 6:18). What God says is reliable (Jeremiah 10:10). His Word is consistent with His character and His revelation of Himself (John 7:28; 8:26). Because of God’s character, we can count on Him to fulfill His promises (Psalm 31:5). Patience and longsuffering are attributes of God’s character. He is “slow to anger,” dealing patiently with rebellious sinners (Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15;). God was patient in delaying the flood in Noah’s time while the ark was under construction, giving sinners plenty of time for repentance. Likewise, the prolonging of Christ’s return is not an indication of slowness or hesitation on God’s part, but of His longsuffering, as He does not want anyone to die without the opportunity to repent, be saved, and enter into His family (2 Peter 3:9–10). At the heart of God’s character is His desire to be a Father to all who draw near to Him (Psalm 68:5). The more deeply we dig into the Scriptures, the more we will uncover new and beautiful facets to the character of God. And the longer we spend time with Him and in His Word, the better we will know and understand His nature. We will discover that God never changes (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), that He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and always present everywhere (Psalm 139:7–10; Hebrews 4:13). He is perfect (Matthew 5:48), and He is three in one. We can spend a lifetime seeking after Him and still only scratch the surface of the depth of our Heavenly Father’s character.

God Uses The Unlikely

By: Andrew Roebert



God has unusual qualifications for people who He uses. What may be the requirements that the world has, often times means little to God. God is in the business of using those people who are unlikely candidates. I am so glad about this, because this means that God can use me.

The Foolish Things

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

God's ways are just different to the ways of the world. God often makes what the world would consider unwise choices. When He chooses to use things they are not always what people would expect. He chose the stable for the Saviour of the world to be born in. He chose to ride a donkey when He rode into Jerusalem. He chose to die on a cross and through something as strange as that make eternal life available to all of us. He chose to work with the Apostle Peter, who proceeded to deny Him, but He still went on to use Him in a great way God uses the unlikely. If you feel like an unlikely candidate for God to use today, keep your eyes open, you may just be who He is looking for.



Let's look at the categories that God makes use of:

1. **The weak things.**
2. **The lowly things.**
3. **The despised things.**
4. **The things that are not.**

People who fall into these categories make ideal candidates for God to use. Perhaps you have disqualified yourself in one of the above mentioned ways. I want to encourage you and remind you that God uses the unlikely.

Why Does God Use The Weak And Foolish Things?

We know that God wants to use these things, BUT why? Would it not be better just to choose the best man for the job? Someone who has all the right qualifications. Someone who can effectively do the job. That is what the world would say. But God chooses these

The Weak Things

1 Corinthians 1:27

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. V28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not to nullify the things that are.

types for a specific reason.

1 Corinthians 1:29
….so that no one may boast before Him.

Using the weak and foolish means that we have to depend on God. The result is that we will glory in what God has done and not in what we have accomplished.

God is looking For Those Who Are Available

God is looking at our hearts. He is looking for availability. He is looking for those who will be individuals who will depend totally on Him. Not people who will always trust their own strength and wisdom. I remember hearing that God wants FAT people: Faithful, Available and Trainable/Teachable. People who feel like unlikely candidates tend to be open in this way. As a result God can use them.

Examples From History

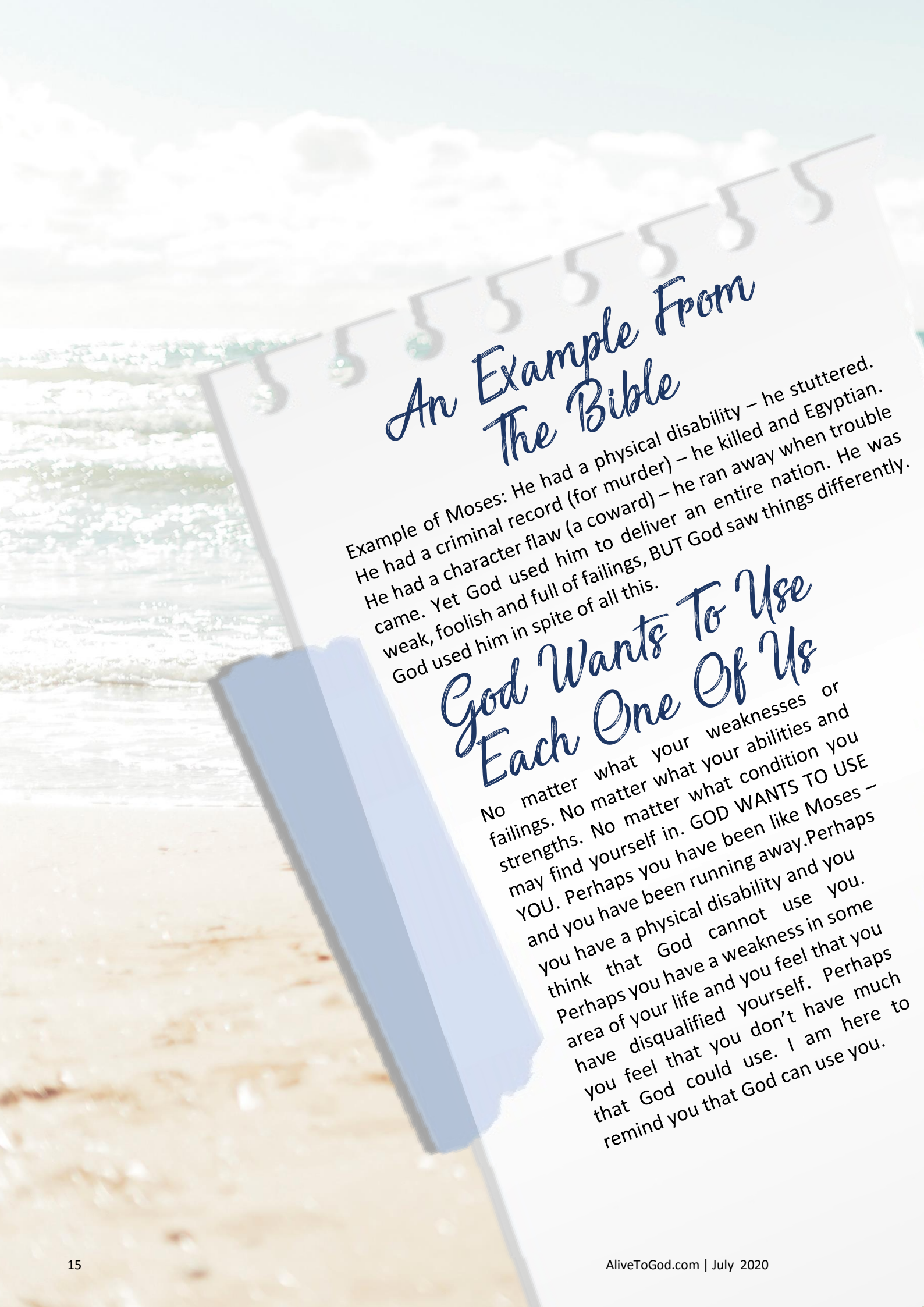
AA Allan, who had a drinking problem. Yet God still used him to bring about great healings. God has begun to use someone in Africa. John Arnott mentioned that it would be just like God to use an insignificant person somewhere in Africa. My own father.

The Unlikely Know That They Have To Depend on Him

The strong can depend on themselves. The capable have their own strength. They can accomplish a lot. But when you know that you are an unlikely candidate, you see things differently. When you know you are weak, or unlikely, and still God chooses to use you, you become desperately dependent on Him. You know that you can do nothing in your own strength.

Things That Limit Us

Perhaps there is something in your life that limits you. You think that because of that God cannot and will not use you. Perhaps you think that because of this you are disqualified from being used by God. As a result you feel weak and foolish. God can use you despite your weaknesses and failings. He specializes in such cases.



An Example From The Bible

Example of Moses: He had a physical disability – he stuttered. He had a criminal record (for murder) – he killed and Egyptian. He had a character flaw (a coward) – he ran away when trouble came. Yet God used him to deliver an entire nation. He was weak, foolish and full of failings, BUT God saw things differently. God used him in spite of all this.

God Wants To Use Each One Of Us

No matter what your weaknesses or failings. No matter what your abilities and strengths. No matter what condition you may find yourself in. GOD WANTS TO USE YOU. Perhaps you have been like Moses – and you have been running away.Perhaps you have a physical disability and you think that God cannot use you. Perhaps you have a weakness in some area of your life and you feel that you have disqualified yourself. Perhaps you feel that you don't have much that God could use. I am here to remind you that God can use you.

A REAL-LIFE STORY FROM ONE OF Our Subscribers

Here is our COVID19 story, a long story ahead, but be blessed.
Glory to God alone!

My husband and I are both nurses. He works in ER and I work in OPD (Outpatient Department). Since the outbreak of COVID19, other than prayers, we have both practiced "no kiss and hug", especially towards our children. When we arrive home from duty, we go straight to the bathroom, shower and then we place our clothes in separate hampers from other soiled clothes.

As the cases began to rise, the fear around us, and all over the world also increased, especially when lock down was put in place. Although I was aware of the fear in my mind, I never allowed it to get into my heart. My husband and I are both in our different ministries in the church, that is why I know, I am confident that "COVID19 CAN NEVER TOUCH US". Until one day, when my husband's colleague at work, and his whole family were infected. So as a protocol, all of them in ER were called for swabbing, of course that included my beloved husband.
On the 2nd of April 2020 (almost a week after the swabbing), my husband woke me up at 5am in the morning telling me "come, get up for a second!".

I had had a very good night's sleep, that's why I thought it was only around 2am and I felt like he was really disturbing me, but again he said "just come please for a minute".

Then I saw his face, worried and sad and I thought "oh no. I'm sure this is about the swab". So, I got up, a little anxious, and went to the bathroom with him. There I saw him, close to tears, saying to me "Babe, the hospital called me, I need to bring you all (me, the kids and the nanny) and we need to be there at 8am for swabbing, I am positive!"
I was still trying to wake up, so I did not hear him at first, and so he said it again "I am positive, babe...!" He covered his face with his shirt and wept. So there he was, standing in front of me, and a boldness came over me. I do not know why I could not even cry or why I was not even worried at all. I asked him "ok, so what's the plan?" Well he told me that he needs to be admitted and isolated immediately and the hospital wants us all to be there at 8am for swabbing. I agreed, but I did not have any choice, that's a protocol!



From 5am till 8am, I never asked God "why us?" "why have you forsaken us?" or something like "I thought you love us". Instead, I asked Him: "Lord, talk to me right now, I'm listening!"
When I opened my bible ... Proverbs 18:14 “The human spirit can endure in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?”.

This was the verse I had in mind as we travelled to the hospital. They admitted and isolated my husband immediately, swabbing was done, and we were sent home for home quarantine protocol until the swabs results were out. We went home, cooked, ate and we lived normally with my kids and our nanny. I do not know why, but at home, we did not feel burdened, we did not have the fear that most people have. Even the internet hyped COVID19, did not concern us. I do not know why. Our Nanny, who is also a Christian, and I think we both have the same spirit that rises up during the storms. We both have been through a lot in our lives, and so we know what God can do (Glory to God alone!). I am so blessed having her around.

I sat down and had my quiet time. I took out my guitar, lit my scented candle and played worship songs. I would pray, eat, play and sing again, and repeat the process. I was anxious because I DID NOT HAVE A SINGLE FEAR ABOUT THE WHOLE SITUATION. Do you know that kind of feeling? My husband is asymptomatic, that is one of the things I am thankful for. He was fine, except for mild headaches and allergic rhinitis kind of sneezes (he has allergic rhinitis, so it seems normal for him to have that). The second day of being quarantined I realized my boys do not have milk anymore and we have one whole chicken left in the fridge as our provision. We could not go out, and we ran out of money. The wife of our Pastor in the church was the first person I had messaged when I knew that my husband had had a positive swab. I asked her and some of our leaders for prayers.

My Pastor’s wife became like a mom to me. I asked for prayers, but she asked how we all were. She wanted to know how the kids were and if we had enough food. Now for the first time I found tears falling from my face. I experienced that feeling of having people around, who are concerned for you and your needs. Most people are thinking of ways how to get away from you because you are infected! To be honest, it was during this time that I discovered what real friends are.



There were people who messaged and showed their concerns, especially to the kids. But there were also those who spread gossip around. I consider them as distractions. Praise God for the wisdom that says not to focus on those things or people. One Saturday morning, as I was cooking our second last food supply, my phone rang, and it was another friend. She informed me that I should open the door, because she was outside our flat, and had brought with her groceries (milk, vitamins, meat, fruit, etc.). I did not cry when my husband got COVID19, because I know "GOD IS IN CONTROL", but this goodness from God really brought me to tears. Tears of joy. God had sent His Ravens from heaven! May God bless them! You know it says that your prayer reaches heaven even before you say it? I believe this! Most of the time it reaches the heavens before I even kneel down to pray. Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness!

That afternoon, I got my guitar out again and was about to start praying when suddenly John 10:10 "The enemy comes only to kill, steal and destroy" came to mind. It penetrated my heart and destroyed my peace. The devil then made me think of the days when we were waiting for the swab result for my husband. My nanny went off, and so the whole day my husband was with the kids, the bonding was so close, he cooked for us, prepared things for us and of course he did his most favorite thing, to annoy us with his kisses and cuddles. That "thief" (devil) was trying to tell me "it is impossible that you will get negative results, all of you have been in contact with him directly for many days". That thought intensified my determination to pray and I asked God many things. I even got to the point of bargaining with the Lord. "If it is positive Lord, I hope not like this.... like that..." Then suddenly the Lord rebuked me and said, "My child, of course I know, I AM IN CONTROL". I stopped that thought and He led me back to His presence with songs of praise, and my peace was restored.

Sunday came, I woke up with the peace of God in my heart. Breakfast was served, I do not know why, but I felt so blessed that day. I grabbed my guitar again and my soul took me in His presence. My husband called, and he said: "all your swabs are negative!"
You know, I literally shouted at the top of my lungs "Halleluiah!!!! Praise God!!!!"



I was so happy, and this was then followed by rivers of tears, so much so that I could not say a word. Spontaneously I found myself repeatedly saying: "thank you Lord! Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Jesus!" I was crying like a child being hugged by a Father. No one has ever made me cry like this before, but Him alone. You know that feeling when your chest is about to explode because of His goodness and faithfulness? I felt like heaven's gates were open and you could see Him hugging you and telling you: "I TOLD YOU, I'M IN CONTROL"

2 Chronicles 20:17 "You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you."

Let us make this short! God's faithfulness and mercy continued, on the 3rd day of my husband's hospitalization, his second swab revealed a negative result, and 48hours after the second swab it was negative again. Finally, he was discharged after a week and sent to continue home quarantine for 14 days, before he resumes his duties. COVID19 may have touched us, but it did not withstand the Spirit of God in us!!

We have just had the toughest time of our lives and my only realization is that if you know the Lord, and what He's capable of, and His promises. If you know how much He loves you and how special you are to Him, there will not be a single fear in your mind about COVID19. This virus cannot destroy the good plans of God in our lives! Have this wonderful truth (Jeremiah 29:11) tattooed in your heart! Enough of this fear! Jesus died for us! This battle is already won! Therefore, believe that in whatever circumstances you are into right now, God knows, and HE IS IN CONTROL! May God bless us all!


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