



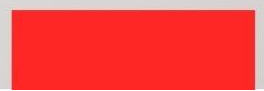
THE WORD & PRAYER ROOM STUDY SERIES 8

THE UNCOMFORTABLE CALL

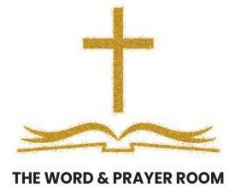
THE CALL OF MOSES



CALL



The Uncomfortable Call Series



The Call of Moses

Day 1: Identity Before Influence

Because divine influence begins where confidence dies.

Key Scripture: Exodus 2:11–12 (NLT)

“Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.”

Context: When God Confronts the Conflicted

Before Moses became a deliverer who split seas and spoke with God face-to-face, he lived in the shadows of one of history’s most powerful monarchs - Pharaoh, the god-king of Egypt. Egypt, in the days of Moses, was not just a nation; it was an empire; structured, advanced, and unshakably proud. Its civilisation thrived on the banks of the Nile, the very river that sustained its economy, irrigated its fields, and symbolised its divinity.

Pharaoh was more than a ruler - he was worshipped as a living deity, a bridge between gods and men. His word carried divine authority. To disobey Pharaoh was not just treason - it was blasphemy. The empire believed the prosperity of Egypt was tied to Pharaoh’s favour with the gods, which is why his reign was absolute, unquestionable, and terrifying.

Under this regime, Hebrew slavery became institutionalised. Generations of Israelites had forgotten what freedom sounded like. Egypt’s monuments and temples, seen as wonders of the ancient world, were built by hands that bore the marks of oppression. The Hebrews’ cries were the soundtrack beneath Egypt’s triumphs.

Into that world of control and cruelty, a Hebrew child was born. Pharaoh’s paranoia had reached its peak - fearing the growing strength of the

Hebrews, he ordered the death of every male child. He wanted to erase their future before it could stand upright. Yet God, with divine irony, allowed Pharaoh's own household to become the cradle of deliverance. The very system that sought to destroy Moses ended up raising him.

Pharaoh's daughter found the baby floating in a basket among the reeds of the Nile - a symbol of helplessness turned into a prophecy of hope. She drew him out of the water and named him Moses, meaning, "Drawn out." That name became his prophecy: he would one day draw a nation out of captivity, just as he was drawn out of the river.

Moses grew up under the shadow of Egyptian power, in marble halls filled with knowledge, wealth, and idols. Archaeological records show that the royal households of Egypt were centres of education and military strategy. He would have been trained in hieroglyphics (the written symbols used by ancient Egyptians to record their language - a system combining pictures, shapes, and signs to represent sounds, words, or ideas, often carved on temple walls, tombs, and scrolls. It was one of the earliest and most sophisticated writing systems in the world, used mainly by priests and scribes rather than ordinary people), as well as astronomy, philosophy, and combat. Acts 7:22 confirms it: "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action."

From the outside, he was everything Egypt revered - articulate, intelligent, and strong. Yet inside, he carried an ache he could not name. The blood in his veins whispered a different story. He was a Hebrew boy in Egyptian robes. The same Nile that symbolised power for Pharaoh symbolised survival for him. Because divine influence begins where confidence dies, God placed Moses in the tension between power and pain. He grew up fluent in the systems he would later confront. He ate at Pharaoh's table but carried the heartbeat of slaves. He belonged to both worlds and yet felt at home in neither.

This is divine strategy. God often places His deliverers inside the very systems that will one day resist them. He lets them learn the language of power so they can one day speak truth to it. Pharaoh's palace was not Moses's reward - it was his classroom.

Egypt was a civilisation obsessed with control - pyramids to immortalise rulers, laws to preserve order, and idols to explain everything they could not dominate. It was a world that celebrated certainty, while the Hebrews cried out for mercy. And in the middle of both worlds, God planted Moses - a man of two names, (Hebrew by birth, Egyptian by upbringing), two educations, two identities; because He was preparing to do something that would shake both heaven and earth.

Moses's struggle began long before the burning bush. It began in the palace, when comfort started to feel like compromise, when luxury started to feel like prison. That's how divine calling often begins: not with thunder, but with a quiet dissatisfaction in the middle of success.

When Moses "went out to visit his people," the Hebrew text suggests there was more than observation - it implies empathy. He didn't go out as a curious prince; he went out as a man trying to reconcile who he was with who he was becoming. What he saw shattered his illusion of belonging. In that moment, compassion became confrontation, and calling began to stir. He saw the brutality of the Egyptian against a Hebrew slave and acted. But this act of impulse, though born of justice, lacked the sanctity of obedience. He killed the Egyptian and buried the body in the sand, and with it, he buried his confidence, his certainty, his image of success. God would spend the next forty years uncovering what Moses had buried - identity, humility, and dependence.

The wilderness that followed was not punishment - it was purification. Because before God can trust you to confront Pharaoh, He must first deliver you from the Pharaoh within - the one that still seeks control, the one that still fears failure, the one that still measures influence by visibility. Because divine influence begins where confidence dies, God must first kill the illusion that power makes you significant.

Focus of the Day: Confidence Dying So Calling Can Live

The uncomfortable call of Moses begins with disruption - the breaking of identity. He was too Egyptian to be Hebrew, too Hebrew to be Egyptian. The space between is where destiny brews.

God does not call the confident; He calls the conflicted. The ones torn between what is and what could be. Moses's first act of deliverance failed because it was born from anger, not anointing. The second would succeed because it was birthed in obedience, not outrage. Because divine influence begins where confidence dies, God dismantles every illusion that you can fix things without Him. Your greatest impact will not come from your strength, but from your surrender.

When Moses fled Egypt, he thought he'd forfeited purpose - but what actually died was the arrogance that would have ruined him. God does not bury your calling in failure; He lets your pride fall apart so your calling can stand on truth.

Why We Struggle With Identity and Influence

- **Because power seduces before it destroys.** We mistake access for assignment and visibility for validation.
- **Because identity feels safer when others define it.** We'd rather fit in with Pharaoh than walk by faith in the desert.
- **Because failure makes us hide.** Like Moses, we bury our mistakes in the sand and hope no one looks too closely.
- **Because we want to deliver others** without first being delivered ourselves.
- **Because the wilderness exposes** how fragile our confidence really was.

Detailed Scripture Breakdown: Exodus 2:11–15 (NLT)

- **In Verse 11, Moses steps out of privilege and into proximity.** He leaves the safety of Pharaoh's palace to witness the suffering of his people. Leadership begins with sight - not status. Purpose often awakens when you allow yourself to feel what others ignore.
- **In Verse 12, his compassion collides with impulse.** Acting without divine instruction, Moses kills the Egyptian and hides the body in the sand. The act exposes a truth about premature purpose - zeal without guidance causes more harm than help. The sand becomes

a picture of concealment: how we try to hide our failures instead of letting God redeem them.

- **In Verse 13, the focus shifts from the enemy outside to the conflict within.** Moses finds two Hebrews fighting - proof that oppression fractures not only freedom but fellowship. Deliverance must heal division, not just end slavery. Every true leader must learn to bring peace where pain has divided people.
- **In Verse 14, the wound of rejection appears.** “Who made you ruler and judge over us?” The accusation cuts deep, echoing the insecurity Moses already carries. Yet this question becomes the prophecy of his calling - a calling that God will answer years later at the burning bush. The words that wounded him would one day define him.
- **In Verse 15, Pharaoh turns against him.** The same system that shaped him now seeks to silence him. God allows rejection from the palace so Moses can discover that influence without intimacy is hollow. Before he can stand before kings, he must first learn to kneel before God. The wilderness becomes his appointment with identity.

What We Can Learn for Our Calling Today

- **God uses contradiction as curriculum.** Your confusion is the birthplace of your calling.
- **Failure is the refiner’s fire.** God turns regret into revelation.
- **You cannot deliver people you still fear.** God removes you from the system so He can remove the system from you.
- **The wilderness is not a waste.** Hidden seasons mature what applause would destroy.
- **Your history equips you for your authority.** Egypt taught Moses how to stand in Pharaoh’s court; humility taught him how to stand in God’s.
- **When confidence dies, dependence lives** - and in that yielding, God finally becomes your source instead of your safety net.

Key Themes

- Divine influence begins where self-confidence dies.
- God hides you before He highlights you.
- Calling is born in contradiction.
- Leadership starts with brokenness, not brilliance.
- The wilderness purifies what Egypt polluted.

Practical Application

- **Step 1: Identify Your Egypt.** What structures, habits, or environments have shaped your confidence more than your conviction? Write them down and ask God to strip their hold on your identity.
- **Step 2: Face What You Buried.** Stop pretending the sand has covered it. What failure or shame have you hidden from God? Bring it into prayer and honesty.
- **Step 3: Embrace the Wilderness.** Your isolation is not accidental. It's an appointment. Let solitude do its work.
- **Step 4: Shift Your Metric for Success.** Measure growth not by visibility, but by alignment with God's will.
- **Step 5: Stay Close to the Cry.** Listen for the pain that moves God's heart - because that's where He'll send you next.

Declarations

- My wilderness is not rejection; it's refinement.
- I am being stripped, not of value, but of vanity.
- God is healing what I tried to hide.
- My influence begins where my confidence ends.
- I will lead from dependence, not from display.

Prayer

Father, Thank You for calling me beyond the safety of my confidence. When I cling to control, pry my fingers open. When I hide my failures in the sand, uncover them with mercy. Strip away the pride that blinds me to Your purpose. Teach me to lead from the place of dependence, not dominance.

Let my heart break where Yours breaks. Prepare me in the quiet so that I can stand in the noise. Make me a vessel You can trust - not because I am strong, but because I am surrendered. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Final Reflection

Before Moses ever stood before Pharaoh, he had to stand before himself. Before he spoke to nations, he had to learn to be silent in the desert. The palace gave him education; the wilderness gave him encounter.

Because divine influence begins where confidence dies, God will first dismantle the version of you that doesn't depend on Him. He will use contradiction to reveal calling, failure to strengthen faith, and obscurity to build obedience.

So, let the wilderness do its work. Let the silence shape you. "When confidence dies, God finally has room to move.

In day 2 study, we will follow Moses into Midian - the place where God hides those He is preparing to reveal.

Blessings as you meditate, hear what the Lord is saying, and act in obedience.