



Day 3

Moses was a man racked with emotional, if not physical pain. He was torn between his two identities—his deep, familial connection to the Israelite slaves and his deep emotional connection to the, albeit evil, Egyptian Pharaoh who had adopted him.

All of that changed the day Moses met God in the burning bush.

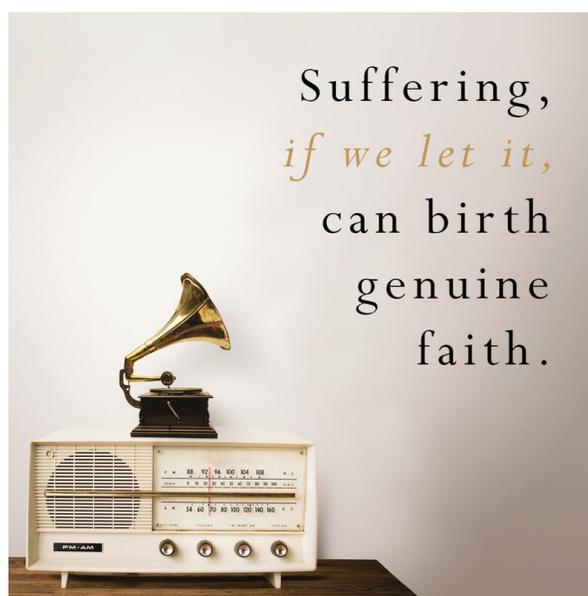
It's hard to imagine what it would have been like to meet God in such a metaphysical and miraculous moment. But we know it must have been intense.

Moses had run away from home after murdering a fellow Egyptian so he was literally and emotionally in a wilderness—far away from his people. And right there, in the middle of his own spiritual and physical desert, God showed up.

As you read today's scripture in Exodus, note how many times something about "seeing" or "sight" is mentioned. Then pay attention to some of the other senses that are noted. In this moment between God and Moses, we learn that God sees, hears, and shows up when we need Him most. Here are just a few things this moment teaches us:

- God has dominion and majesty over the things of this earth- not only the burning bush, but over all creation, over chaos, and even over our physical bodies.
- God's glory is like a fire, which both refines us and comforts us with warmth. In our pain, we can experience His glory.
- The burning bush is a metaphor--just like the bush, though we suffer, we will not be consumed.
- We have a God who sees, who listens, who speaks, a God who comes down and who shows up.

And as you read the scripture of today, remember that though this trial feels impossible, God's banner over you is love. He is showing up in your wilderness with an open invitation to His dining table. He sees you. He hears you. He is near.



Exodus 3:1-15 NLT

1 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." 4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. 5 "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and

the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

11 But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

13 But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

14 God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

Song of Songs 2:1-13 NLT

1 I am the spring crocus blooming on the Sharon Plain, the lily of the valley.

Young Man

2 Like a lily among thistles
is my darling among young women.

Young Woman

3 Like the finest apple tree in the orchard
is my lover among other young men.

I sit in his delightful shade
and taste his delicious fruit.

4 He escorts me to the banquet hall;
it's obvious how much he loves me.

5 Strengthen me with raisin cakes,
refresh me with apples,
for I am weak with love.

6 His left arm is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.

7 Promise me, O women of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles and wild deer,
not to awaken love until the time is right.

8 Ah, I hear my lover coming!
He is leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

9 My lover is like a swift gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he is behind the wall,
looking through the window,
peering into the room.

10 My lover said to me,
"Rise up, my darling!
Come away with me, my fair one!

11 Look, the winter is past,
and the rains are over and gone.

12 The flowers are springing up,
the season of singing birds has come,
and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air.

13 The fig trees are forming young fruit,
and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming.

Rise up, my darling!
Come away with me, my fair one!"

This reading plan can be found at <https://my.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/14521>