

God's Calling Requirements

Part 65

The Circumcision of the Son of Moses

"1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. 6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. 7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land. 10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. 13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. 14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. 15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. 17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs. 18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. 19 And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life. 20 And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go. 22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: 23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn. 24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision. 27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to

meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: 30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped." (Exodus 4:1-31 KJV)

Moses was reluctant to respond to the calling of God that he had placed over his life to go to Egypt to deliver God's people from the hands of Pharaoh. Therefore, God faced his excuses by equipping him with signs and wonders, so he will go forward and do what he was asked to do.

But, even when God offered all that to him, Moses put forward to God another excuse, that he is not fluent in speech, *"10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."* (Exodus 4:10 KJV)

God here explained to him that He will help him and put words in his mouth. But, even with that, Moses asked God to send someone else instead of him. Upon this God was very angry and He told him that He will send his brother, Aaron, to be with him and Aaron will be the one to help him in delivering the Word of God to the people. Moses when he heard that, moved forward with his wife and his two sons to go to Egypt. *"18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace."* (Exodus 4:18 KJV) Possibly Moses was happy that finally, he will meet his brother Aaron and his people after a long time of forty years.

Further, God assured him, that all the men who were after him were dead and now the way is open to him to go back safely to Egypt. *"17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs."* (Exodus 4:17 KJV) God even here told him to take his rod with him to do the signs, as if God was thinking that Moses may keep it behind so he will have an excuse to go back. It seems that Moses had some stubbornness that God knew beforehand and He was dealing with him.

On the way, the following had happened, *"24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision."* (Exodus 4:24-26 KJV) The following questions will be put forward:

A. Why God wanted to kill Moses, especially after Moses moved to Egypt, and was willing to obey God and do what God asked him to do?

B. Why God did not kill Moses?

C. What is the explanation of what Zipporah did in circumcising the son of Moses?

A. Why God wanted to kill Moses, especially after Moses moved to Egypt, and was willing to obey God and do what God asked him to do? *"24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him."* (Exodus 4:24 KJV) Because Moses did not

circumcise his son, although he knew that he needed to do that. He moved to the mission field to go and deliver out the people of God from under the hand of Pharaoh, while he did not do what God required him to do for his son. The command of the circumcision was given by God to Abraham as a covenant, ***“10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. 13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”*** (Genesis 17:10-13 KJV) Circumcision will give a clear sign in the flesh. That was the covenant of God with Abraham. Therefore when Moses did not do that to his son, he was not fulfilling his covenant with God. Did Moses know that? Yes, he knew it. Why then he did not do? Maybe he was reluctant, keep postponing, or stubborn. **Are you behaving like Moses? Are you reluctant, keep postponing, or stubborn?** Moses in the atmosphere of Median, being away from his people who practice that, he might get cold to abide with God’s instructions especially he was surrounded with people who might not practice that. Even his wife, although she was the daughter of the priest of Midian who was from the descendant of Abraham from Keturah his concubine, might be refusing Moses to do the circumcision for her sons. Although they were descendants of Abraham they might have not kept the same faith as Moses. **That is why the Scriptures keep admonishing us and teaching us to be always with God and the people who are close to God so that our love to God will be more genuine and our obedience will be more profound and clear.** That is why God sent Moses back to His people to rekindle in his heart and his life the fervent love to God and His commands and to serve Him in the remaining part of his life.

God also commanded Joshua to circumcise the Israelites, those who were born in the wilderness, who were not circumcised, before he would lead them into the Promise Land, ***“2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. 3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. 4 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. 5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. 6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. 7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. 8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. 9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.”*** (Joshua 5:2-9 KJV) **God’s people without discipline are in reproach. Our children if we keep them without discipline they are in reproach, the same as the people of God without circumcision in the Old Testament they were in reproach. Disciplining our children in painful but it will remove the reproach.**

B. Why God did not kill Moses? “26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.” (Exodus 4:26 KJV) Because God achieved the purpose of His anger and the son of Moses was circumcised by Zipporah. ***“25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.”*** (Exodus 4:25 KJV)

It was not enough for Moses to get circumcised in his flesh, but even his sons should be circumcised so that the covenant with God will remain. **We need to discipline ourselves as well as to discipline our children.** In the New Testament, this is the command of God regarding circumcision, ***“11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.”*** (Colossians 2:11 KJV) The spiritual meaning of circumcision is to put off the body of the sins of the flesh. **Circumcision of the sinful nature is to be done by Christ; Christ is the head of the church and we are his body, therefore, the church, the parents, the workers, and the ministers, all should work with Christ to discipline ourselves, our children and our disciples.** ***“29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”*** (Romans 2:29 KJV) The heart should be clean and a place for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. ***“4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.”*** (Jeremiah 4:4 KJV)

When God wanted to kill Moses, Zipporah took the initiative to circumcise her son, ***“25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.”*** (Exodus 4:25-26 KJV)? It seems most likely that Moses was in strife with his wife about the issue of circumcision. The same as many ministers’ wives who try to hinder their husbands to do the whole will of God especially when it comes to the children’s discipline. It seems that she was not agreeing about it, or she was not happy about it being done on her son because it is painful. But when the Lord was about to kill Moses, her husband, she realized that God was angry because of that, so out of her fear from God, and no fear of God, that He is going to strike her husband, she hurried and circumcise her son. God interfered in the life of the family of Moses and imposed Himself that His instruction should be fulfilled and followed.

Many parents now a day they disagree with one another about disciplining their children or even about the things of God, but God out of His mercy would interfere, that His instructions would be implemented in the life of the families that had set their hearts to serve Him and to do His will as we came to know here in the life of the family of Moses. **Discipline and order inside every family according to God’s Word is vital for the family to be a good example to others and to attract them to the Lord that we serve.**

Some people said about their children that they are old and beyond the age of discipline and correction. But let us read the story of the life of Moses in the book of Acts and conclude approximately the age of the son of Moses that Zipporah circumcised.

“23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: 25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. 26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? 27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? 28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? 29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.” (Acts 7:23-29 KJV) Already here we read that Moses had two sons. Now if we read the next verse, *“30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.” (Acts 7:30 KJV)* we can discover that Moses left Egypt at the age of forty years, and when he was at the age of eighty, God appeared to him and that was the time that the Lord commissioned him to go back to Egypt. So we can conclude that he got married and got two sons during the forty years that he spent in Midian.

Therefore from the Scripture, we conclude that Zipporah circumcised her son when he was a full-grown man. If she was able to do it to her son when he is a man, then Godly parents today left without excuse if they fail to control and discipline their old age children.

C. What is the explanation of what Zipporah did in circumcising the son of Moses? *“25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.” (Exodus 4:25 KJV)* Zipporah was forced to do that, and that is why she was angry with Moses, as she told him, *“Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.”* She was forced to accept and do the covenant of circumcision. As Zipporah was forced to do God’s will, the Lord is forcing every parent to discipline and deal with the sinful flesh of their children. God does that so that the family and the parents who are serving God can be a good example to the society that they are serving and are located to live with.

If we continue to read the events on the journey of Moses and his family toward Egypt, we can find that Zipporah and his two sons were not with Moses when he met his brother Aaron. *“27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.” (Exodus 4:27-29 KJV)* Zipporah was sent back with the two sons of Moses; most likely right after that incident when God wanted to kill Moses. The reason because she might not be able to stand the pressure that Moses would face in Egypt when he will confront Pharaoh, and she might react and bring more pressure on Moses and would discourage others. However, at that time, the basic thing that was expected from Zipporah was achieved when she circumcised her son that had not been circumcised yet. We need to understand that at certain times our spouses, husbands, and wives, might not be willing to do what God instructed us to do. We might be in struggle with them for a certain period. But we need to trust God, that as we are willing to obey, He is faithful; He will come in a visit to our families and forces our spouses to implement His will and His instructions in the life of our children and families.

Ahead of Moses was a great task that needed to be done. People were waiting for the intervention and the deliverance of God. The Lord sent Moses to do that task, but there was a hindrance for Moses to reach Egypt and do the work of God. When that hindrance was removed, the way was open for Moses to reach Egypt and do the work of God. Moses needed to send his wife and his two sons back because most likely Zipporah his wife would not be able to bear the pressure and the strain that Moses would be exposed to in Egypt. **Certain wives are not yet ready to face the pressure and the strain that God would put the husband in doing the work of God and the ministry of God. Therefore it might be advisable that they will not be exposed to such pressure for a while till they are grown-up or till God would bring a great victory in the life of His church and the life of His people.**

Husbands should be considerate with their wives especially when they cannot bear certain things to do. I am not telling here to give in to them and give them the approval to do wrong. But what I am suggesting here is that when they cannot accept certain instructions of God’s Word and implement them in their lives, then just be firm and God Himself will be the one to force them as He forced Zipporah to circumcise her son.

Now here speaking about Zipporah, the wife of Moses. Certain times our partners are not up to the point of our faith and may not help us to do certain things for God because they cannot accept, and we got upset and disgusted. But let us look at it from another direction. When Moses escaped from Egypt, God out of His mercy gave him Zipporah because that was the best of faith that was available around him and he needed to be considerate with her till she grows to the expected level of faith. From where God will give Moses an Israelite when he escaped from Egypt and cannot go back because he was wanted for his murder? **Therefore let us thank God for His mercy to what he gave us of partners. As God was considerate with us in the past and had mercy on us, therefore, in the same way, we need to bear and have mercy on our partners and be patient till they will reach that level of God’s calling in their lives.**

Further growth and maturity would be expected to be seen in the life of Zipporah and that truly took place, as we saw in the coming future when we read that she once again joined Moses, her husband with her two sons; they joined together with the people of God, *“1 When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt; 2 Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, 3 And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land: 4 And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh: 5 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: 6 And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.” (Exodus 18:1-6 KJV)* Further growth and maturity would be expected to be seen in the life of our spouses who are lag behind in doing God’s will. The Lord surely will interfere with the life of our families as we desire to be perfected and obey His will, and He will do the needful on our behalf.

As well as we need to understand that at a certain time God will allow that one of the spouses will not be perfect in a certain aspect of life. God allows that to test our patience, perseverance, and our willingness to bear pressure, our willingness to forgive, and to see whether we fully trusting God.

The names of the sons of Moses were Gershom and Eliezer. ***“3 And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land:” (Exodus 18:3 KJV)*** Gershon means ‘*I have been an alien in a strange land*’, for Moses was an alien in a strange land because he decided to refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter and he delighted to be part of God’s people taking the suffering for Christ as an asset and honor, ***“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.” (Hebrews 11:24-27 KJV)*** God wants us to be willing to come out from worldliness and to suffer with the people of God valuing the reproach of Christ as Moses did.

“4 And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.” (Exodus 18:4 KJV) Eliezer means, ‘*God is mine help*’. God will surely help us and aid us in our troubles and He will surely reward us for all our hardship that we are facing for His name’s sake.

My dear and beloved: How about you now?

Is the Lord is sending you to do the work and you are making lot of excuses?
Are you behaving like Moses? Are you reluctant, keep postponing, or stubborn?
Are you away from God and the people who are close to God and now God wants you to go back to Him?
Are you living without discipline, and or your children without discipline and in reproach?
Is there any hindrance in your life that needed to be removed before you can go forward?
Is your family in order?
Is your children are in God’s discipline and their hearts are circumcised to God?

Now you need to be aware of the following:

Be aware that the church, the parents, the workers, and the ministers, all should work with Christ to discipline ourselves, our children and our disciples.

Be aware that discipline and order inside every family according to God’s Word is vital for the family to be a good example to others and to attract them to the Lord that we serve.

Be aware that Zipporah circumcised her son when he was a full-grown man. If she was able to do it to her son when he was a man, then Godly parents today left without excuse if they fail to control and discipline their old age children.

Be aware that at certain times our spouses, husbands, and wives, might not be willing to do what God instructed us to do. We might be in struggle with them for a certain period. But we need to trust God, that as we are willing to obey, He is faithful; He will come in a visit to our families and forces our spouses to implement His will and His instructions in the life of our children and families.

Commit yourself to the Lord to be willing to go forward and serve Him, to be willing to stand with God and to allow Him to remove whatever hindrance that is affecting your achievement and testimony and to be patience with Him, standing with Him in perfecting you, in perfecting your spouse, your children and your family as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that reminds me to abide and live according to your instructions in the bible.

Confess your sins to the Lord and renounce all your excuses, postponement, lack of commitment and stubbornness.

Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I am willing to go forward with the mission and the task that you had instructed me to do. Lord I commit myself to remove the following hindrances _____ from my life and from the life of my family so that we can be good example and testimony to others to see you and follow you. Lord gives me the boldness and the strength to do that.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives for you and to be willing to do the task that you entrust them to do. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to persevere in serving you. Lord gives them joy, comfort, assurance, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, long suffering, self-control and humility to go on and serve you so that others will see you through their lives. Lord visit them, visit their families and do the needed miracles and changes with the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord lift them up, and uphold them with your grace to overcome all struggles, as they are willing to deal with sin and to do your will.

Lord bless and sustain our church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

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