

*The Monday Memo*  
From the desk of  
Dr. John Stanko  
Issue 141

Welcome once again to this edition of **The Monday Memo**, a weekly email designed to help you clarify your purpose and bring order to your world. I began writing **The Memo** in 2001 in response to hundreds of requests for some kind of regular letter that would help people who were seeking their purpose. **The Memo** has grown from simple beginnings to almost 8,000 subscribers in countless nations. We began a series two weeks ago on Moses and his comments during his encounter with the burning bush.

When God spoke to him from the bush, Moses' first comment was, "Here I am!" We saw that this indicated his readiness to do what God wanted *before* He knew what it was, an attitude that you would do well to imitate. Last week, we studied how Moses asked, "Who am I?" We related that question to our tendency to discount our ability to accomplish our purpose when we find out what it is. This week, we look at Moses' third comment: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13).

I think Moses was employing a delay tactic in this question. He was basically saying, "I'm not ready to go. I don't have all the information I need. I need to know more about God. I need to be better equipped." I have encountered many people doing the same thing when they find their purpose or have an idea. They often tell me, "I'm praying about it," but when I probe, I find out they aren't really. Or they tell me, "I don't have the education" or "I don't pray enough" or "I need to get this fixed or right in my life before I go and do." All of these are excuses that delay doing what it is that is before us.

I am not saying that you don't need more training, that you don't need to pray more, or that you don't need to know more about the Lord. But none of these issues disqualify you from doing God's will today. Nor do they represent something that can't be addressed *while* you are fulfilling your purpose instead of *before* you fulfill it. So many people are trying to figure out how to do God's will before they actually begin. Seldom is that possible.

Recently in my weekly Bible studies I made comments on Hebrews 11:34-35: "Whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies." I thought it interesting that the heroes of faith didn't wait until they had strength; rather they received strength when they entered the battle. Too many people say, "If God gives me strength, I'll go and do it." But God says, "If you go and do it, I'll give you the strength (or wisdom, power or ability) that you need." If you are waiting until you are ready to go, you may never be ready to go. At least part of the "getting ready" is doing what you are trying to get ready to do.

Are you procrastinating, delaying what God wants you to do? What excuse have you come up with that sounds so logical? Are you ready this week to face the truth of why you are delaying? I hope that you are, for God knew your weakness when He first spoke to you. In spite of that, He is holding out a chance for you to fulfill your purpose. Are you ready to stop delaying and begin acting? This week could be the week when you finally stop asking questions, trying to figure it all out. I hope it is. Have a great week!

*The Monday Memo*  
From West Palm Beach, Florida  
Written by Dr. John Stanko  
Issue 142

This week we continue our series on Moses and his comments during his encounter with the burning bush. When God spoke to him from the bush, Moses' first comment was, "Here I am!" We saw that this indicated his readiness to do what God wanted *before* He knew what it was, an attitude that you would do well to imitate. Two weeks ago, we studied how Moses asked, "Who am I?" We related that question to our tendency to discount our ability to accomplish our purpose when we find out what it is. Last week, we saw that Moses' third comment was: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13). We saw that this comment was an example of Moses coming up with an excuse that he wasn't ready and didn't know enough about God.

This week, we look at his fourth comment: "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" (Exodus 4:1). Moses was asking this week, "What if I fail? What if I'm obedient, but the people are not?" From my own life and my experience as a purpose counselor, I am ready to declare that fear of failure is *the* primary stumbling block for people trying to be more purposeful and productive. You can be so afraid to do the *wrong* thing that you do *no* thing, missing opportunities that could be significant.

Are you afraid of failure? Is that what stands between you and the attempt to fulfill your purpose or achieve your goal? Last year, we declared the last Sunday in June as "Celebrate a Failure Day." We urged our readers to talk about what they learned from failure and then to celebrate that failure as a great learning experience. (We devoted Memos number 111-117 to the topic of failure and the role that it plays in your success. You can find these issues of **The Monday Memo** at <http://www.purposequest.com/mmemo.htm>.) This week I include a famous quote from former American president, Teddy Roosevelt:

It is not the critic who counts; Not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; Who strives valiantly; Who errs, and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; But who does actually strive to do the deeds; Who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; Who spends himself in a worthy cause; Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worse, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

I am of the opinion that it is better to fail trying to do something than succeed at doing nothing, for the latter isn't really success at all. I have been too concerned in the past with what other people thought. I have also been too concerned with trying not to fail instead of trying to succeed.

Are you ready to face your fear of failure this week? There is only one way to do that, and that is to do something about what you've always said you would do "one day." I am writing to tell that the "one day" is here; that "one day" is now. Many times I have quoted James 2:17 in **The Monday Memo** and I do so again this week: "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not

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accompanied by action, is dead.” I urge you to take some action this week that will help you overcome your fear of failure and do something that could change your world. Have a great week!

*The Monday Memo*  
From the desk of  
Dr. John Stanko  
Issue 143

It is still winter where I live. I am looking out the window at a lot of snow, with a forecast for more. But Tuesday I depart for the warmer weather of Dallas and then Zimbabwe. If you live in either place and would like to schedule a PurposeQuest session with me, please write and let me know.

This week we continue our study of Moses’ comments during his encounter with the burning bush. When God spoke to him from the bush, Moses’ first comment was, “Here I am!” We saw that this indicated his readiness to do what God wanted *before* He knew what it was, an attitude that you would do well to imitate. Then we studied how Moses asked, “Who am I?” We related that question to our tendency to discount our ability to accomplish our purpose when we find out what it is.

Two weeks ago, we saw that Moses’ third comment was: “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13). We saw that this comment was an example of Moses coming up with an excuse that he wasn’t ready and didn’t know enough about God. And last week, we looked at his fourth comment: “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?" (Exodus 4:1). This question was an indication that Moses was concerned that he would fail and I asked you to consider what, if anything, you were afraid of.

This week we look at his fifth comment, which was an answer to a question God asked him: “Then the LORD said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ ‘A staff,’ he [Moses] replied” (Exodus 4:2). Moses was concerned he would fail because of all the things he *didn’t* have. In his mind, Moses didn’t have enough knowledge about God, he lacked the confidence, he was too old, and he wouldn’t be able to respond to the peoples’ questions. But God asked him a simple question. In essence, God asked him, “What *do* you have?”

When God assigned your purpose, He knew your gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. If those things didn’t matter to God, why should they be of concern to you? People regularly tell me reasons why they can’t fulfill their purpose or dreams. They tell me that they lack the education, they’re too young or too old, they don’t have the money or they aren’t gifted enough. Have you ever said any of those things? If you have, you must realize that God isn’t asking you for an inventory of things that you don’t have; He’s more concerned that you allow Him to use you and what you *do* have.

Moses went to Egypt with that staff in obedience to God’s command. He fulfilled his purpose with what he had in his hand. You will fulfill your purpose the same way. Moses was honest with God; he told him what he had. God went on to show him that it was enough (you may want to read Exodus 4:3-9 on your own). Will you do the same this week? Will you allow God to

prove to you that you **do** have what it takes to do His will, as long as you submit what you have to Him?

You must move beyond the realm of excuses to the kingdom of obedience. You must learn to face your fears and obey God. In the process, you must also learn to surrender what you do have to God's empowering touch so that you will be equipped to fulfill your purpose. Why not make this the week that you do those things, so that you won't delay any longer in knowing the joy of being used by God. If I can help, let me know. Have a great week!

*The Monday Memo*  
**From Dallas, Texas**  
**Written by Dr. John Stanko**  
**Issue 144**

Later today, I depart for Zimbabwe where I will be for two weeks. The last time I was there, I could not connect to the Internet and could not send The Monday Memo or the weekly Bible study. So if you don't hear from me for the next two weeks, you know that I am unable to connect once again until I return home on February 24.

We are almost finished with our study of Moses' comments during his encounter with the burning bush. When God spoke to him from the bush, Moses' first comment was, "Here I am!" We saw that this indicated his readiness to do what God wanted **before** He knew what it was, an attitude that you would do well to imitate. Then we studied how Moses asked, "Who am I?" We related that question to our tendency to discount our ability to accomplish our purpose when we find out what it is.

We later saw that Moses' third comment was: "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13). We saw that this comment was an example of Moses coming up with an excuse that he wasn't ready and didn't know enough about God. His fourth comment was: "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" (Exodus 4:1). This question was an indication that Moses was concerned that he would fail and I asked you to consider what, if anything, you were afraid of.

Last week, we looked at Moses' fifth comment: "Then the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he [Moses] replied" (Exodus 4:2). God was teaching Moses to use what he had and not to fret over what he didn't have. And that brings us to Moses' sixth comment, which was: "Moses said to the LORD, 'O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue'" (Exodus 4:10).

With this sixth comment, Moses has moved from honest questioning to procrastination. He is now working hard to come up with some excuse, **any** excuse so that he wouldn't have to go to Egypt (we also looked at the issue of procrastination in Memo 141). If you look hard enough, you will always find a reason that could exempt you from fulfilling your purpose. Some of these reasons I hear on a regular basis are: "I'm too young; I'm too old; I don't have the education; I don't like to speak in front of people; I don't have the money; My spouse/pastor/leader/supervisor doesn't feel good about me doing that; I'm not sure it's God's will; I'm waiting on the Lord's timing." I've heard these reasons many times and God has heard them even more often.

I especially want to address the last excuse: “I’m waiting on the Lord’s timing.” I heard a leader say one time, “The need that you see *is* your call.” He meant that seeing a need that exists is often the only “call” you are going to receive. When I teach about purpose, I ask what is it that you see that you assume everyone else sees. In most cases, everyone does *not* see what you see. Seeing it then requires that *you* then do something about it, without over-spiritualizing the process. God who has given you the ability to see the need will also equip you to address that need. The Lord responded to Moses: “The LORD said to him, ‘Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now *go*; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say’” (Exodus 4:11-12 emphasis address).

God is saying the same thing to you this week. He is telling you to “go” and do. As you go, He will help you speak or do whatever it is that He wants you to do. Stop procrastinating and finding excuses to justify your delay. The good news is that it isn’t too late. The God of your purpose is extending another opportunity to do His will. Don’t disappoint Him or make Him find someone else. You can do it. What’s more, you *must* do it if you are to be a person of purpose. Have a great week!

*The Monday Memo*  
**From Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**Written by Dr. John Stanko**  
**Issue 145**

It is obvious that I am able to access the Internet this trip, so I am able to bring you this issue of **The Monday Memo**. If this is your first week to receive **The Memo**, this edition will finish a seven-week series that looked at the comments of Moses when he confronted the burning bush. (If you would like to read the previous six Memos, they can be found at <http://www.purposequest.com/mmemo.htm> along with all the other back issues.)

Let’s begin with a story from the world of sports. Several years ago, a professional basketball game was in the final seconds. The coach called time out and called a play that he hoped would win the game. But when play resumed, only four of his players were in the game. The fifth player, who was also the star, refused to go back in because he wasn’t going to take the winning shot. He forced the coach to put someone else in and his team lost. Needless to say, players, writers and fans criticized that player for his selfish behavior.

As we look at Moses’ seventh comment, we see that Moses, having exhausted all the excuses and questions he could think of, simply refused to go to Egypt. “But Moses said, ‘O Lord, please send someone else to do it’” (Exodus 4:13). In essence, Moses said “no” to God! Moses refused to go into the game just like that basketball player. And what was God’s response? “Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses” (Exodus 4:14). I hope I never make God that angry, but this story proves that it can happen. God is patient but there are limitations to His patience and we are never quite sure when we will reach those limitations.

I have people ask me all the time, “Can you refuse your purpose?” and my answer is always, “Yes!” Consider these two passages:

1. 1. “But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves” (Luke 7:30); and
2. 2. “As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain” (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

You can receive the grace of God's purpose in vain, choosing to ignore it or do nothing with it. You can sit on your gifts, choosing to remain in the comfort zone of life rather than experiencing the discomfort of new faith experiences. You can be so afraid of doing the wrong thing that you choose to do nothing.

God had answered and addressed each of Moses' questions and concerns so that the real reason for Moses' reluctance could be revealed: Moses just didn't want to do it. Like that star basketball player, Moses just didn't want to go into the game.

How about you? Are you testing God's patience through delay and excuses? The good news is that after Moses said this, God assigned Aaron to go with Moses and then sent them both on their way to Egypt. If you confess this week that you don't want to fulfill your purpose, that you're scared, lazy or lack confidence, then the Lord will still help you! You are not alone in your PurposeQuest; God is with you, even in your hesitancy. All you have to do this week is acknowledge where you are and ask God's help. He will do the rest. Let this be the week when you face reality and still move on to do great things for God, just like Moses. Have a great week!