

SUBJECT: DIVINE CREDENTIALS

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 7:8-12

From the sermon file of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

Introduction

Moses and Aaron are under divine authority and commissioned to speak to Pharaoh in an attempt to get him to release the Israelites from bondage. Pharaoh demands credentials as proof that they are who they claim to be. Their credentials are to be displayed before Pharaoh in the form of a miracle. Aaron is to cast his rod at the feet of Pharaoh and it is to become a serpent. It was an Egyptian custom that all nobles and official persons in Pharaoh's court carry a rod as a symbol of authority and rank. The rod also symbolized the immediate execution of that power. So God had chosen a custom to work before Pharaoh to show God's authority in His two servants that Pharaoh was familiar with. The rod was cast down upon the ground and it did become a serpent. Pharaoh immediately calls his magicians and demanded of them to cast down their rods, which also turned into serpents. The rod of Aaron was greatly outnumbered by the magicians rods. But Aaron's rod swallowed up all the magicians rods. This victory came about through the total commitment of Moses and Aaron to their God. This was proof positive of their divine credentials.

Every Christian has been placed in this world to be servants, rods of God, with the command to share the Christian witness verbally and visibly.

I. THERE MUST BE A SPIRITUAL SUBDUING. (Vs. 10a)

Subdued means that we have allowed God complete control over our life.

1. OTHER DEPENDANCES MUST BE DESTROYED. (Acts 10:1-2, 4)

- a. Cornelius would be considered to be a perfect Christian. He was respected because of his position in the Italian band.
 - i. He was a devout religious man who feared God.
 - ii. He set an example for his household.
 - iii. But deep down inside of him something was missing. No matter how much religious affiliation he had, there was an emptiness that screamed out with disturbance.
- b. Cornelius was religious, but he had not allowed himself to be subdued by God. God was not permitted to reign in all matters of his life.

2. A DEVOTION TO CHRIST MUST BE DEVELOPED. (Acts 6:8)

- a. Stephen was full of faith and power and God allowed him to do great wonders.
 - i. The religious leaders was jealous of him, making false accusations against him, and stirred up the people against him.

- ii. The religious leaders could not take the truthfulness of God's word in Stephen's preaching. Under false accusations Stephen was found guilty, dragged outside the city and stoned to death.

- b. To be spiritually subdued has a price tag.

II. THERE MUST BE A STEWARDSHIP OF SERVING. (Ex. 7:10b)

On the Christian front today there seems to be a stamp that states: "Uncommittment."

1. UNFAITHFULNESS IN DEEDS. (James 1:22-25)

- a. To hear the Word and not apply it to our lives is selfish deception.
- b. If the Christian cannot control his tongue, his religion is in vain (Vs. 26-27)
- c. Evidence of pure Christianity is caring for the needs of others.

2. UNFAITHFULNESS IN DUTY. (Mal. 3:7-10)

- a. Robbers can be found in the church.
- b. Subdued person will be faithful in all areas of his life.

Conclusion

Divine credentials! May you be encouraged to be subdued by God in your total life.