

Exodus 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Analysis

Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say—(וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה וְאַנְכִּי אֶהָי עִמֶּךָ וְהַלְלֵיתֶךָ אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמֶר תְּבָרֵךְ)—God's promise to Moses (and later all prophets/preachers): **I will be with thy mouth** (אֶהָי עִמֶּיךָ). Divine presence and enablement trump human eloquence. **Teach thee what thou shalt say**—(וְהַלְלֵיתֶךָ אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמֶר)—content from God, not human wisdom. This promise anticipates Jesus' words to disciples: "the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say" (Luke 12:12). God doesn't need polished speakers—He needs obedient mouthpieces. Moses' weakness became the platform for God's strength (2 Corinthians 12:9). True preaching power comes from God's Spirit, not human technique.

Historical Context

Throughout redemptive history, God chose unlikely spokesmen: Moses (speech-impaired), Jeremiah (too young), Isaiah (unclean lips), Amos (not a prophet), Peter (uneducated), Paul (afflicted with a thorn). The pattern demonstrates that God's Word carries inherent power independent of the messenger's natural gifts. This theme runs through Scripture: God's strength perfected in weakness (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise 'I will be with your mouth' free you from fear when called to speak for Him?
2. In what areas of ministry do you need to stop relying on natural ability and start trusting God's promised enablement?

Interlinear Text

וְהִרְאֵת יְכָנֹעַ
and I will be with thy mouth
H6310 and teach
H3384

תֹּדֶבֶר: רָאשׁ הָאָשָׁר
thee what thou shalt say
H834 H1696

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Mark 13:11 (Parallel theme): But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Isaiah 50:4 (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Ephesians 6:19 (Parallel theme): And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Luke 11:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Isaiah 49:2 (Parallel theme): And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Psalms 143:10 (Parallel theme): Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Psalms 32:9 (Parallel theme): Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.