

Exodus 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—(*וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְאַבְרָהָם וְשָׁמַת אֶת-בְּדָבָרִים בְּפִי וְאַנְכִּי אֲחֵיה עַם-פִּיךְ וְעַם-פִּיהוּ וְהַרְיָתִי אֶתְכֶם אֶת אֲשֶׁר תְּשַׁׁלֵּחַ*) The new arrangement: Moses receives God's word and speaks to Aaron; Aaron speaks to the people/Pharaoh. **I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth**—God's enabling extends to both. **Teach you what ye shall do**—God provides content and strategy. This partnership model works initially but creates dependency that later proves problematic. The ideal was Moses' direct communication; God's accommodation to Moses' fear created mediated communication. Sometimes God grants our requests but they're second-best (cf. Israel demanding a king, 1 Samuel 8).

Historical Context

Moses-Aaron partnership functioned during the Exodus and wilderness years, though tensions emerged (Numbers 12:1-2 when Aaron and Miriam challenged Moses; Exodus 32 with the golden calf). The pattern of prophet (Moses) and spokesman (Aaron) illustrated but also complicated leadership. Later, Moses would speak directly to Israel (Deuteronomy), showing growth beyond his earlier fears.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the Moses-Aaron partnership illustrate God's patience with our fears while showing the complications of resisting His best plan?
2. What 'second-best' arrangements have you insisted upon, and how has God worked through them despite their limitations?

Interlinear Text

פְּדָבָרְךָ יְמִינְךָ וְדָבָרְתָּ	אֶל־יְהוָה	וְשִׁמְךָ	אֶת־אֶתְּנָאָתָּה	פְּדָבָרְךָ יְמִינְךָ	words
And thou shalt speak	H413	unto him and put	H853		H1697
	H1696		H7760		
פְּנֵי־יְהוָה	אֶתְּנָאָתָּה	עִם־	פְּנֵי־יְהוָה		
and I will be with thy mouth	H595	H1961	H5973	and I will be with thy mouth	H6310
	H6310				
וְעַמְּךָ	פְּנֵי־יְהוָה	וְהִנְרִיתִי	אַתָּה־אַתָּחָכְךָ	אַשְׁר־	
H5973	and I will be with thy mouth	and will teach	H853	H853	H834
	H6310		H3384		
תְּעַשׂ:					
you what ye shall do					
	H6213				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:16 (Word): And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (Word): I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Numbers 23:16 (Word): And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.

Numbers 23:5 (Word): And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

Numbers 23:12 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

Isaiah 59:21 (Word): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Jeremiah 1:9 (Word): 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.

Exodus 4:12 (Parallel theme): Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.