

Numbers 16:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

Analysis

Moses declares 'Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.' He stakes his credibility on divine calling, not personal ambition. The phrase 'of mine own mind' (Hebrew 'millibi', from my heart) emphasizes that Moses' leadership flows from God's commission, not self-promotion. True spiritual authority is given, not taken.

Historical Context

Moses repeatedly demonstrated reluctance for leadership (Exodus 3:11, 4:10-13), contrasting with Korah's ambitious grasping. This statement invited God to vindicate His servant through supernatural demonstration.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can you discern whether your ministry pursuits flow from God's calling or personal ambition?

2. What role does humble reluctance play in confirming genuine spiritual calling?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר said H559	מֹשֶׁה And Moses H4872	בָּזָאת H2063	תַּדַּע וְ Hereby ye shall know H3045	כִּי H3588	הִנֵּה הָ that the LORD H3068
לֹא כִּי בָּא לְהָ hath sent me to do H7971 H6213					
כָּל אֲתָּה בְּמַעַשׂ יְמֵינוֹ all these works H853 H3605 H4639					
מִלְבָד: for I have not done them of mine own mind H3820					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:12 (Parallel theme): And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jeremiah 23:16 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.

John 5:36 (Parallel theme): But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Ezekiel 13:17 (Parallel theme): Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

Exodus 7:9 (Parallel theme): When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

Zechariah 4:9 (References Lord): The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

Zechariah 2:9 (References Lord): For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.

John 11:42 (Parallel theme): And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.