

there's power in this **HOUSE**

Part 3 • January 18, 2026 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

WE WILL BE A HOUSE OF BLESSING

EXODUS 4:1-4 (NIV)

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

There is coming a day when we step into eternity, stand in the presence of God, and suddenly everything becomes clear. Every moment we questioned. Every instruction we didn't fully understand. Every word God spoke that didn't make sense at the time. And I believe one of the most common phrases that will be spoken in heaven is this: **"Oh... that's what He meant."**

What was once mysterious will be made plain. What was once confusing will be revealed. What was once dim will be fully illuminated.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 (KJV)

"For now we see through a glass, dimly; but then face to face."

Right now, we are living in partial revelation. We don't see the full picture yet, but that doesn't mean God hasn't spoken. It means we are being discipled.

Because discipleship (my definition) is this: learning on earth what will be fully known in heaven. It is heaven instructing earth. (Well, at least it should be)

Every command, every question God asks, every step of obedience is heaven trying to teach us now what will one day make perfect sense.

And often, when heaven instructs earth, it comes in the form of a question. Not because God lacks knowledge but because He wants to bring revelation to us.

Which brings us to Exodus chapter 4. One day Moses is out doing what he's always done: tending sheep, walking familiar ground, living what feels like an ordinary life. And suddenly, God interrupts the ordinary with the supernatural. Moses sees a bush that's burning, but it's not being consumed. Moses encounters the Fire.

Fire in Scripture is never random. Fire is revelation. Fire is refinement. Fire is commissioning. And from that fire, God calls his name. When God wants to get a person's attention, He often lights something that cannot be ignored. Moses saw a bush that burned but was not consumed—and from that fire, God called his name. Fire marks the moment when heaven interrupts the ordinary and purpose is clarified.

Don't forget the purpose of the fire. Fire is not just for warmth. Fire is not just for spectacle. Fire is for transformation. Peter's life gives us the example: Peter's life is framed by two fires and everything about his calling is decided between them.

The first fire is the fire of compromise.

John tells us Peter was warming himself by the fire in the courtyard. The flames were close enough to give comfort but far enough from Jesus to avoid cost. And it is beside that fire that the question comes: "Aren't you one of His disciples?"

That fire asked him a question he was not yet ready to answer. Wrong fire. Wrong crowd. Wrong courage.

He wasn't denying Jesus because he hated Him he was denying Him because he was trying to survive. He stood close enough to the world to stay warm, but far enough from Christ to stay safe. And the fire of compromise will always make you choose comfort over conviction. But God was not finished with Peter.

The second fire is the fire of Pentecost.

This time, Peter is not standing near the fire he is filled with it. Tongues of fire rest on him, not to warm his body, but to ignite his calling. And now the question returns, but in a different form: "What does this mean?"

And Peter stands up and declares, "This is that." What once made him shrink back now makes him stand boldly. The same mouth that denied now proclaims. The question that crushed him at the first fire becomes the answer he releases at the second.

The fire of compromise asked, "Do you belong to Him?" The fire of Pentecost answered, "Yes—and let me tell you who He is." One fire exposed his fear. The other fire empowered his faith.

Between those two fires, Peter is challenged and changed. God did not remove fire from Peter's story, He changed the source of it. Because the issue was never fire itself; it was which fire he would stand by. And hear this: God is still calling names from the fire. But the fire will either reveal who you're trying to be or who you were called to be. The question is not whether you will stand near a fire. The question is which fire will define you?

Moses encounters the (fire) presence of God but notice this: before God ever sends Moses to Pharaoh, before He talks about deliverance, before He talks about purpose, He asks him a question. "What is in your hand?"

PRINCIPLE NUMBER ONE

Whenever God asks you a question, He already knows the answer. The question is never for His benefit; it's always for ours. God wasn't trying to learn something about Moses. He was trying to reveal something to Moses.

Moses answers, "It's a staff." Just a stick. Dead wood. Ordinary. Common. Something Moses had held every day of his life.

And God says, "Lay it down." Moses obeys and when he lays it down, the staff becomes a snake. What was dead suddenly becomes alive. What was familiar becomes frightening. And the Bible says Moses ran from it. But then God says something that doesn't make sense to the natural mind: "Pick it up." And when Moses obeys again, the snake turns back into a staff in his hand.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO

God never does a miracle just to show off. God is always teaching something. Heaven is always instructing earth.

That staff represented Moses' whole life. It represented his identity. Moses was a shepherd, and a shepherd is never without a staff. It was who he was. It represented his income. His livelihood, his provision, his security were all tied to those sheep. It represented his influence. The staff guided, corrected, protected, and led the flock.

And as long as that staff stayed in Moses' hand, it was just dead wood. But the moment he laid it down, God put life on it. And when he picked it back up in obedience, it was no longer just a staff it became the Rod of God.

From that moment on, that rod destroyed the curses of magicians, struck a rock and released water, turned rivers to blood, and parted the Red Sea. What was once ordinary became a channel of supernatural power.

Why? Because Moses laid it down. So how do we actually give God our identity, our income, and our influence? Because surrender sounds spiritual until it becomes specific. Giving God your identity means you stop letting titles, seasons, or failures be the loudest voice defining who you are.

Moses had been a prince, then a fugitive, then a shepherd. God did not call him by any of those labels. He called his name. When you give God your identity, you allow Him to tell you who you are before you try to prove it to anyone else.

It means you no longer introduce yourself by what you do, what you've lost, or what you're afraid of becoming. You say, "I am who God says I am," even if your current assignment looks smaller than your calling. Identity surrendered says, I don't need a platform to be faithful; I need obedience. Giving God your income means trusting Him with your provision instead of controlling it out of fear.

Moses' staff was how he ate. It was how he paid the bills. When God asked for the staff, He was asking Moses to trust Him with survival. Giving God your income is

not just about tithing, it's about acknowledging the source. You stop saying, "This is mine," and start saying, "This came from Him."

It means your finances are no longer driven by anxiety, greed, or self-preservation, but by obedience and generosity. You don't give to be blessed you give because you trust the Blesser. And what you release in faith, God often returns with purpose.

Giving God your influence means recognizing that your life is already speaking, so you choose what it will say. Moses' staff shaped where the sheep went. Peter's words shaped where the crowd turned. Influence is not reserved for leaders with microphones. It is in homes, workplaces, friendships, and quiet conversations.

Giving God your influence means you stop asking, "How does this make me look?" and start asking, "Does this point people to Him?"

It means your words heal more than they harm. Your presence brings peace instead of pressure. Your authority serves instead of dominates. Here is the unifying truth: God never asks for these things to take them from you, He asks to flow through them. Identity surrendered becomes calling clarified. Income surrendered becomes provision multiplied. Influence surrendered becomes impact eternal.

And it all begins the same way it did for Moses and Peter, standing in the fire of God's presence, hearing your name called, and choosing to place what is in your hand into His. God took something natural and made it powerful not when Moses held it tightly, but when Moses surrendered it fully.

Now here's the question for us. What is in your hand? For Moses, it was a staff. God is not asking you to get something new. He's asking you to surrender what you already have. And this is where our core value comes alive, we are called to be a House of Blessing. A House of Blessing understands this truth: what God puts in our hands is never meant to stop with us. When Moses laid down his staff, God didn't just bless Moses, He blessed an entire nation. Deliverance flowed. Provision flowed. Direction flowed. Freedom flowed.

A House of Blessing is built when ordinary people place ordinary things on the altar and God puts His extraordinary power on them. As long as we cling to what's in our hands, it stays dead wood. But when we lay it down, heaven breathes on it. When a house releases, God releases. When a house surrenders, God pours out.

God is still asking the same question today not because He doesn't know the answer, but because He wants us to recognize it. What is in your hand?

And the deeper question is this, will you lay it down? Because when a house lays things down, God lifts things up. When a house yields, God fills it. And when a house is filled with surrendered hands, it becomes a House of Blessing to families, cities, and generations.

So I'll ask it one more time: What is in your hand? And will you lay it down?