



**The Rod And The Spear
(What's in Your Hand?)
Sunday Sermon, August 23, 2026**

Let's consider the following two Scripture texts:

Exodus 8:16

So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, '**Stretch out your rod**, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.' "

Joshua 8:18

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "**Stretch out the spear** that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city.

We know that God has raised up Moses to deliver His people out of bondage in Egypt. We notice how God used a rod in Moses' hand to do mighty things.

Joshua was trained under Moses for about 40 years. Joshua was appointed and anointed as Moses' successor to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Joshua's assignment was to lead the people to conquer and take possession of the Promised Land.

God did not instruct Joshua to use a rod like Moses did. Instead, Joshua held a spear in his hand.

Let's think about this.

#1, THERE ARE NEW WAYS AND METHODS TO HOW GOD WORKS

What would have happened if Joshua went into battle with Ai, with a rod in his hand. This could have proved disastrous for Joshua – unless God had instructed him to use a rod.

Joshua didn't just try to "copy" Moses.

God works in different ways and uses different methods and tools over time.

While the Word and the Anointing do not change, the tools, ways and methods used to minister God's Word and minister under the Anointing may change.



1 Corinthians 12:4-6

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

Evolution of media in the church

Think about how the use of media have evolved in Christian ministry – starting with the use of radio, TV, cassette tapes, CDs, MP3, computers (Bible software), the internet (websites), social media platforms, e-learning platforms, AI tools, etc.

When TV came out there were some who said this was “demonic” and fought it. Similarly with the internet. But then some looked at these tools as opportunities to expand the reach of the Word of God and ministry. And this is what is happening.

Evolution of music in the church

Think about how worship in the Bible and the Church has evolved:

- Israel singing and prophesying with dancing (Exodus 15:1,20-21)
- Old Testament Tabernacle, Temple, and Worship with instruments (no song books).
- New Testament Synagogues
- New Testament Early Church Worship
- 700 AD Church Organ Music
- 800 AD Gregorian Chant- introduced by Pope Gregory of the Roman Catholic Church, a call and response between the priest and the congregation.
- 1500's (16th Century) Hymns of the Church for Congregational Worship (Martin Luther, John Calvin). Calvin wanted congregational worship when sung to only include the words of the Bible where others such as Martin Luther wanted the hymns of the church to reflect as closely as possible to the exact words of scripture.
- 1600's (17th Century) Johann Sebastian Bach, German composer, greatly influenced Martin Luther. Many of Bach's works are direct expressions of scripture text in music. Bach's weekly task became to select bible verses and to compose a “cantata” for the Sunday and to train the musicians for the performance. Through this Bach was powerfully preaching the word of God in the language of music.
- Songs of revival (First 1740s, Second 1770s, Third Great Awakenings 1850s, and other Revivals)
 - "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (1739/1740s)
 - "Amazing Grace" (1772)
 - "Rock of Ages" (1776)
 - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (1779)
 - "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" (1772)



"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (1855)

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" (1859)

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (1858)

- 1900's Gospel music, Gospel Choir
- 1960's-1970's Jesus Freaks, The Jesus Movement. Pastor Chuck Smith and Calvary Chapel welcomed the new form of Christian "rock" music as part of their worship. Larry Norman is often remembered as the pioneer of Christian rock.
- 1982 "Contemporary Christian music" - Vineyard Movement, Vineyard Music (e.g. More Love, More Power)
- 1993 Hosanna Integrity, Hillsong and other Christian Bands
- 2000's Bethel Music, Jesus Culture, Elevation Worship, Maverick City, and many others

Contemporary Christian music has its roots in the 1960's-1970's "Jesus Movement". There was resistance from the "main line" church to using the kinds of instruments and style of music that was known as "rock" music. But some people took the step and encouraged the church to use this style...and see where we are today.

Be open to new ways and new methods through which God would want to work through you.

#2, WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND IS ALIGNED TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Moses was a prophet-leader. Moses used a rod as a tool in his assignment.
Joshua was a warrior-leader. Joshua held a spear as a tool in his assignment.

Joshua needed to use the "ways and methods" that were relevant to God's assignment on his life.

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

God has given grace and gifts to each of us, aligned to His call and assignment on our lives. We may have different skills, different opportunities, etc.

Recognize that what is in your hands now, is aligned to your assignment – use it!



#3, GOD WORKS WITH YOU WHEN YOU WORK

When Moses stretched out the rod in his hand, there was nothing “supernatural” in the rod. It was God working with Moses that caused mighty things to take place.

When we put our hands to work, using what God has placed in our hands, God works with us. We are called co-workers with God.

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

God's working with us can be seen through many ways – His power, His miracles, His favor, His provision, and so many other ways.

When you work, expect to see God's work manifested in supernatural ways!

#4, DON'T LET OPPOSITION OR PAST FAILURES STOP YOU

Although Moses was called, appointed, anointed and sent by God, with the rod of God in his hand, he faced opposition. There was Pharaoh who didn't want to let the people go. There were the magicians who were able to replicate the first 3 signs that Moses did. But Moses kept working on his assignment and he saw God work a great deliverance for His people.

Joshua and the people of Israel lost the battle at Ai the first time. There was sin in the camp, and once they addressed this, they went back to fight once again against Ai. Joshua led with the spear in his hand. *"Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city" (Joshua 8:18).* This time they saw victory.

Keep pressing into God's assignment despite opposition or past failures.

#5, THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

The Bible is very clear that Moses was a man anointed by the Spirit of God. So also, Joshua was anointed by the Spirit of God. It was not about the rod that Moses used. It was not about the spear that Joshua used. But it was the anointing of the Holy Spirit



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working through these people, as they used what was in their hands to carry out God's assignment, that enabled them to fulfill God's call on their lives.

So also, for us today. We do not depend on the ways and methods. We do not trust the tools that are in our hands. We depend fully and solely on the power of the Holy Spirit working through us as we use these tools.

Zechariah 4:6-7

6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

Rely fully and solely on the Holy Spirit, not the rod or the spear.

SUMMARY

- #1, there are new ways and methods to how God works
- #2, what's in your hand is aligned to your assignment
- #3, God works with you when you work
- #4, don't let opposition or past failures stop you
- #5, the anointing of the Spirit makes all the difference

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Exodus 8:16; Joshua 8:18; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Based on what you know about Moses and Joshua, reflect on the simple insights presented in this sermon/message and how you can apply these to your life's journey and God's assignment for you:

#1, there are new ways and methods to how God works



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- #2, what's in your hand is aligned to your assignment
- #3, God works with you when you work
- #4, don't let opposition or past failures stop you
- #5, the anointing of the Spirit makes all the difference

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

Moses was a prophet-leader. Moses used a rod as a tool in his assignment. Joshua was a warrior-leader. Joshua held a spear as a tool in his assignment. Even though Joshua was trained under Moses for 40 years, Joshua didn't just try to "copy" Moses. God did not instruct Joshua to use a rod like Moses did. Joshua needed to use the "ways and methods" that were relevant to God's assignment on his life. God works in different ways and uses different methods and tools over time. While the Word and the Anointing do not change, the tools, ways and methods used to minister God's Word and minister under the Anointing may change. Drawing from what we see in Moses and Joshua, we consider these five important insights: 1) there are new ways and methods to how God works, 2) what's in your hand is aligned to your assignment, 3) God works with you when you work, 4) don't let opposition or past failures stop you, 5) the anointing of the Spirit makes all the difference. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon



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presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

Moses, Joshua, rod of God, calling, purpose, assignment, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.