

**Pray Like Moses (6)**  
The Legacy of a Man of Prayer  
(Numbers 27:15–23; Psalm 90)

**Introduction:** After 40 years of leading Israel toward the Promised Land, Moses learns he will not enter it (Num. 27). How does he respond? Not with self-pity, but with prayer for the people's future. Moses' selfless prayer at the end of his life highlights the legacy of prayer he left behind. In this final *"Pray Like Moses"* message, we see Moses finish well – on his knees – and consider how we can leave a legacy of faith through prayer.

**I. Moses' final prayer: – Praying for the next generation**

- A. A message for Moses** – God gives Moses disappointing news (Num. 27:13–17)
1. Moses is told he will die before entering the Promised land. He may view it from a distance, then "be gathered to your people" (v.13).
  2. Moses and Aaron disobeyed God at Meribah and failed to honor Him, so they were barred from Canaan (Num. 20:12). Aaron has already died (Num. 20:27–29).
  3. Moses pleaded for permission to enter (Deut. 4:23–29), but the Lord refused to relent. Yet Moses neither complains nor wallows in self-pity.
- B. A prayer from Moses** – Moses responds by praying for the people, not himself (Num. 27:16–17)
1. Instead of one last plea to enter the land, Moses asks, *"Please, Lord, provide them a leader."* He prays, "Let the Lord... appoint a man over the congregation" to shepherd the people after he's gone.
    - a. His chief concern: that God's people "may not be like sheep without a shepherd."
    - b. This is remarkable humility and meekness (Scripture calls Moses "very meek, more than all people on earth" – Num. 12:3).
  2. Even after all the grief Israel caused him, Moses shows no bitterness. He accepts God's will and loves the people enough to intercede for them.
- C. An answer from God** – God appoints Joshua as Moses' successor (Num. 27:18–23)
1. Joshua is commissioned and filled with the Spirit to shepherd Israel into the Promised Land. God graciously answers Moses' unselfish prayer.
  2. Moses understood a vital principle: true success is preparing the next generation.  
*"There is no success without a successor"* (John Maxwell). Moses' greatest legacy was raising up a godly leader to follow him.
  3. Moses didn't see the people as his own; he knew they belonged to God. He prays, "Lord, these are Your people – please provide them a shepherd when I'm gone."
  4. This foreshadows the heart of Jesus, the greatest Shepherd. Centuries later Jesus saw the crowds and "had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). God ultimately answered Moses'

prayer not only with Joshua, but with Jesus – the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11).

- D. For us:** Do we pray with that kind of concern for others, especially the next generation?

**II. Moses' perspective – God's eternity and our frailty (Psalm 90:1–11)**

- A. Psalm 90 is the only psalm attributed to Moses** (and likely the oldest psalm in the Bible). Scholars believe Moses wrote it near the end of the 40-year wilderness journey, after an entire generation had died in the desert. (the Psalm breaks down as follows...)
- B. God's eternal nature (v.1–2)** – Moses begins by exalting God's eternity:
- C. Man's frailty and life's brevity (v.3–11)** – In contrast, human life is fragile and short: Even a long life (70–80 years) passes quickly and is often marked by difficulty.
- D. Gaining perspective** – Understanding God's eternity vs. our frailty should humble us and give us wisdom. (Js 4:14) Moses final requests...

**III. Moses' prayer for wisdom, mercy, and God's favor (Ps. 90:12–17)** Moses concludes Psalm 90 with four key petitions. These prayers show how a godly person seeks God's help to live meaningfully in a short life:

1. **"Teach us to number our days" – A Prayer for Wisdom (v.12)** We need God's instruction to gain a **heart of wisdom** – the ability to prioritize what truly matters. (**Eph. 5:15–16**)  
*(Warren Wiersbe noted that in the "school of life," only those who realize their time is limited will make the most of each lesson and opportunity.)*
2. **"Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love" – A Prayer for mercy & joy (v.14–15)** Moses prays to start each day grounded in God's unending love. *"In the morning"* suggests seeking God early each day so that His love will satisfy our souls. (Ex. 33:11; Lam. 3:22–23) For us, we should begin each day with prayer and Scripture, reminding yourself of God's steadfast love and mercy.
3. **"Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children" – A prayer for God's presence in the next generation (v.16)** Moses asks God to continue His mighty work among His people, and to reveal His glory to their children (the next generation).(Ps. 78:4, 7). We too should pray for God to move mightily in our children's lives and in our church's future. Our faith is always one generation away from extinction if we fail to pass it on.
4. **"Let the favor of the Lord be upon us, and establish the work of our hands" – A prayer for lasting impact (v.17)** (Ps. 127:1; 1 Cor. 15:58)

**Conclusion** – Like Moses, may our legacy be a life that pointed others to God because we walked with Him in prayer.