

“Validate” October 1, 2017

prove, substantiate, corroborate, verify, support  
**valid (adj.)** etymology from, L. *validus* "strong, effective, powerful, active," from *valere* "be strong"

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**Finally be strong in the Lord and in God’s mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand .... stand your ground, and after you have done everything, stand (Ephesians 6:10-11a, 13d).**

God validated Moses’ leadership by having him strike the rock to obtain water. God was demonstrating that Moses was strong because God made him strong. Moses had authority because God gave it to him. Moses had the force of law because God chose to reveal truth through him. Moses’ acts were God’s acts because he said “Yes” to God. Moses was effective because God made him effective.

Moses is God’s model for us: disciples of Christ. This was God’s way of validating Moses’ authority and power, his power, his strength among the Hebrew people.

John tells us that the Christ came in human form to those same people as Jesus of Nazareth:

“He came unto his own but his own did not welcome and receive him, but to as many as did receive him, who welcomed him into their lives, he gave the authority (the right power and privilege) to become the children of God (John 1:11-12).”

When we say “yes” Christ, God validates our lives through Christ’s death and resurrection.

When we entrust our lives to his Lordship over us we receive God’s Spirit into our spirits in power.

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God’s servants? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, ***pleading for us*** (Romans 8:33-34).”

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No,

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:35, 37).”

As God validated Moses by having him, in faith strike the rock, that most unlikely source of refreshment, so God validates us as we live out our faith. God blesses us; God honors us; and lifts us up to make a difference in the world. God endows us with powerful faith and hope and patience and love to be a blessing to others. The religious leaders of Jesus’ day missed it. They were troubled that ***the wrong people*** were following Jesus. But religion, religious organizations, theologies and doctrines are not the final answer. God’s power, God’s authority, God’s validation of us and our lives are God’s gift to us, in accordance with our willingness to receive and live in Christ daily. Amen.