

SELF-DOUBT

Matthew 14:31 ... “And immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him [Peter], and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’”

Some believers are reluctant to serve God because they are not sure how. Some hesitate to accept God’s assignments due to their belief that they lack the skill, talent, or training. Of course, many just resist God’s call because they simply do not want to serve him. However, there is another group of believers among us that fails to answer God’s call because they do not have the confidence to do so. We call that self-doubt; an inner fear of doing something that appears to be too demanding, risky, or difficult. That fear is usually tied to one of the hesitations above – lack of knowledge, skills, talent, or training, or an unwilling and disobedient spirit. Is that you? Are you afraid to serve God because you feel incapable, or because you are sure you will fail, or just because you are unwilling (too busy or too dedicated to your own plan)?

When God assigns you to do something for him, which we refer to as a “calling,” he is trying to accomplish two things: 1) Test your faith, and 2) fulfill a task that will give God glory. We speak often about your purpose for being created: To worship God and serve him by sharing Christ with others. So, if your humble service to God gives him Glory, it becomes an act of worship. Worship and service are inseparably connected.

God tests your faith when he calls you to do something for him that you cannot do by yourself, under your own power, or by utilizing your own knowledge, training, and skills. A popular saying in Christianity, is: God does not call the equipped, he equips the called. That perfectly explains the process and reflects the faith component of serving God. If you have little faith, self-doubt will keep you from obeying and serving him. If you have adequate faith, you will say “yes” to God because you trust him to do as he has promised and provide you with the ability to accomplish your assigned task.

If you have been reluctant to accept God’s assignment for you, ask yourself why? I believe, if you look deep into your heart, you will discover that you are afraid, or that your attention is focused on yourself. Do not use self-doubt to justify your refusal to serve God; that is too easy. God can erase any doubt you have in the blink of an eye, if your heart is in the right place. And, God can use you to accomplish amazing things if you just obey and serve.

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