

# THE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH

**1 Samuel 10:17-27**

**“Doubts, Fears, and Faith”**

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

## **Transcript**

27:21

They told me to come up and dismiss the kids, but as soon as the kids saw me, they all ran out. I guess I won't take that personally, but... Good morning. Is it okay with you if I start with a question?

27:41

Here's the question. Do you ever lack confidence in yourself? Lack confidence maybe in your abilities, in your ideas, maybe you question your feelings sometimes. Do you ever lack confidence in your talents or gifts?

28:01

Do you sometimes question whether or not you have what it takes to succeed in the things that are important to you? Does your fear of failure ever cause you to shy away from opportunities that could be good for you?

28:21

William Shakespeare said, Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt. It's also been said that doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will. Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.

28:45

William Goldman was a two-time Academy Award-winning screenwriter who wrote a bunch of hit movies, and he described his own self-doubts like this. It'll be on the screen. This is amazing. Two-time Academy Award-winning screenwriter wrote, The haunting demon never leaves you.

29:05

That demon being the knowledge of your own terrible limitations, your hopeless inadequacy, the impossibility of ever getting it right. To be human is to wrestle with our insecurities and self-doubts that can also cause us to doubt God.

29:25

We can question God's plan or purpose for our lives, and we can look around and we can see people that seem to have gifts or talents we don't think we have, and we can believe, well, surely God can use them for his great work in the world and not use us.

29:44

In our passage today, we're going to meet or we're going to see a king, a king face a moment of truth. Where his fears will make him want to run away and hide from God's call on his life. What will the king do?

30:02

Let's pray together and then we'll find out together. Father, when we come to this moment, the privilege of privileges to open your word and to hear your words, Father, we

come with great expectation because we know you will speak to us and your words have the power to transform us for our good and for your glory.

30:24

So we thank you, Lord, and we ask you to please give us ears to hear and hearts to receive and treasure your words to us today. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen. Our passage today is First Samuel chapter 10.

30:39

We're going to finish the chapter verses 17 to 27. If you'd like to use the Bible that's under the chair in front of you, it's on page 283. A few weeks ago, if you were with us, we explored chapter 7 and we saw the people of Israel.

30:56

Remember, the people of Israel returned to the Lord in humble repentance and God blessed the people of Israel. He blessed them with victories, very rare victories over the Philistines and God blessed Israel with peace all the remaining days of Samuel's life.

31:11

This would have been such a wonderful triumphant ending to the book of First Samuel if chapter 7 was the last chapter. But unfortunately, we turned the page into chapter 8 and what did we see?

31:26

We saw time had passed and elderly Samuel had made his sons judges over Israel, but his sons did not follow the Lord like their father. They took bribes and they perverted justice. If you remember, the leaders of Israel came to Samuel and very, very, very, very bluntly said, look, you're an old man and your sons, they're no good.

31:52

It's time for you to appoint a king over us so we can be like all the other nations and our leadership problems will be solved. This annoyed Samuel, but he prayed to the Lord before he answered and, of course, we have to ask, wouldn't it be really wise of us if we always stopped and prayed before we answered when we were angry or annoyed with someone?

32:18

I'm sure you all prayed before you. Let's look at what the Lord said to Samuel in 1 Samuel 8:7. And the Lord said to Samuel, Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

32:35

Then last week we went through chapter 9 and in chapter 9 we met, you remember, tall handsome stranger named Saul, who was the man God chose to be king. And then we followed Saul right into chapter 10 and we watched Samuel do a private anointing of him to be king.

32:54

And now we'll finish chapter 10 that's going to give us a front row seat to see what happens when Saul is publicly proclaimed as the new royal leader of Israel. Let's read it together. It's an amazing chapter, chapter 10 verses 17 to 27.

33:11

Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. And he said to the people of Israel, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.

33:29

But today you have rejected your God who saves you from all your calamities and distresses and you have said to him, set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.

33:42

Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by Lot. And he brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans and the clan of the Matrites was taken by Lot. And Saul, the son of Kish, was taken by Lot.

34:00

But when they sought him he could not be found. So they inquired again of the Lord. Is there a man still to come? And the Lord said, Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage. Then they ran and took him from there.

34:13

And when he stood among the people he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. And Samuel said to all the people, Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.

34:25

And all the people shouted, Long live the king. Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.

34:39

Saul also went to his home in Gibeah and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. But some worthless fellows said, How can this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no present, but he held his peace.

34:56

Okay, so Samuel called a meeting so the nation of Israel could come together as a people and watch, be eyewitnesses to see God himself choose their king. Probably everyone that could come did come to this royal event.

35:16

Let's go through it line by line. Let's look at verse 17. Now Samuel called the people together to the Lord at Mizpah. You have to love Samuel. To see what he did here, it's so great. He called everyone before the Lord, not to himself.

35:31

He called everyone to gather to the Lord. This is what every Christian and especially every Christian leader should do. Gather people and point them to Christ, not to themselves. And Samuel gathered everyone at Mizpah.

35:45

Why does that place sound so familiar? Mizpah. Well, I'm sure you remember. We read about it in chapter 7. Mizpah is where Samuel gathered the people for a spiritual revival. Remember? And in chapter 7, everyone came to Mizpah to follow the Lord.

36:03

Here just a few chapters later, chapter 10, everyone has returned to Mizpah, but this time to reject the Lord as their sovereign leader. Let's read verses 18 and 19. And he, Samuel, said to the people of Israel, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.

36:31

But today you have rejected your God who saves you from all your calamities and distresses. And you have said to him, set a king over us. Now therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands.

36:47

Just for a minute, imagine that you are in that crowd. You see old Samuel slowly rise to speak. Everyone quiets down so they can hear the prophet's words. Samuel's voice probably isn't as strong as it used to be, but the first words out of his mouth are the most powerful words that can be spoken at any volume.

37:19

What does he say? He says, thus says the Lord. Now I know, we like to think our words are the most important words in the world, but there are no words more precious, more powerful, and more true than the words of God, amen?

37:41

God reminded the people how He brought their forefathers out of slavery to Egypt, and He, the Lord, delivered Israel from not just some, but from all of their enemies, including very recently the Philistines and the Amorites, and here's the thing, everyone, everyone in that crowd knew that Israel's history was truly His story.

38:06

They knew that, but they had grown tired. They were tired of being a unique, one-of-a-kind nation under God's rule. They got tired of that. They wanted to be like the other nations of the world and have a human ruler instead of a heavenly ruler.

38:32

Before we judge these folks too harshly for their foolishness, we need to look at ourselves, don't we? God has saved us from slavery too, not slavery to Egypt, but slavery to sin and death, to Christ our Lord.

38:47

And we know the Lord has rescued us time and time and time again from our calamities and distresses, right? But just like the people of Israel thousands of years ago, we have

human hearts too. And our hearts can yearn to be more like the people in the world than our hearts yearn to be the person that God calls you and me to be.

39:16

Here's another question, do you think it occurred to anyone in that crowd at Mizpah that even though they had rejected God, God had not rejected them? God is always faithful, even when His people then and now don't deserve it.

39:37

God is always faithful. At the end of verse 19, Samuel told the people, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your thousands. So what does that mean? Well we actually don't have a lot of details here, but here's what we do know.

39:53

Israel had 12 tribes, so it seems Samuel wanted the 12 tribal leaders to come forward to represent their tribes before the Lord, and the word thousands refers to the clans in each tribe. A clan is a very, very large family and a family line.

40:12

For example, we see in the book of Numbers, chapter 26, Moses took a census of the people and back then the tribe of Judah by itself listed 5 clans, just 5 clans that totaled over 76,000 people.

40:26

So the clans, the families were big. Clearly Samuel wanted the heads of each clan to also come forward with the leaders of each tribe. Now I've been thinking about this, and I think if I was one of those leaders coming forward, I might be afraid that we were lining up for God to smite us for rejecting Him.

40:49



I think that would go through my head. But God had gathered His people so they could witness yet again His amazing patience, His faithfulness, His love, mercy, and grace. Samuel got everyone ready for the miraculous process of casting lots to reveal God's choice for king.

41:19

Let's read about that in verse 20 and 21. Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. They brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot, and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him he could not be found.

41:42

Okay, I'm going to see if I can read your mind. And maybe you're wondering, okay, why did Samuel go through this whole process to cast lots to reveal the king that God already chose?

41:58

Wouldn't it have been a lot easier for Samuel just to walk to the microphone and say, may I have your attention please, please everyone in the back too, may I have your attention? God chose Saul to be your king.

42:12

Thank you for coming. Well, if Samuel had done that, it would have been quicker, but all the attention would have been on Samuel and Saul, right? This meeting was all about coming before the Lord, not coming before Samuel and Saul.

42:31

It was important, God knew it was important, for the nation of Israel to see their Lord, their God, choose their king. So everyone in the nation of Israel would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God Himself had given them exactly what they had asked Him for.

42:49

The practice of casting lots is mentioned 70 times in the Old Testament and 7 times in the New Testament. These numbers came from a commentary. I did not go through and add all those up. If you want to go home for homework and make your own count, you can tell me what number you came up with.

43:07

But let me give you just a couple of examples. In the Old Testament, for example, after Moses died, remember, the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River and they conquered the Promised Land under Joshua.

43:17

And after that, the leaders then cast lots to determine which part of the land God had ordained for each tribe. And then in the New Testament, in the book of Acts, the 11 apostles cast lots to determine who would replace Judas.

43:33

We do not make decisions today by casting lots because we have something they did not have in ancient times. What do we have? Well, we have the complete Word of God and we also have the Holy Spirit who now permanently lives in us to guide us.

43:49

Now, even though there are all these biblical references to casting lots, there is virtually no description about how the lots were cast or even what the lots were. Experts think they could have been sticks of different lengths.

44:06

They could have been flat stones or they could have been some kind of dice. We don't know. The casting of lots, though, might sound to us like a game of chance, but Scripture is clear that God, not lady luck, directed how those lots would fall.

44:23

The hand of God controlled the outcome. So we see that Samuel brought the tribes of Israel near. This probably means, I doubt that tens of thousands of people crowded the stage where he was. I imagine Samuel just brought the 12 tribal leaders and the leaders came forward and either stood before Samuel or perhaps they moved in front of him and the lots were cast and the smallest tribe, the tribe of Benjamin, was taken by God, chosen by God.

44:53

Don't you imagine that all the people there in that crowd in this world was hoping their tribe would be chosen? Come on. They'd want their tribe. They'd be wearing their tribal shirts. You know, I want my tribe.

45:07

When God chose Benjamin, don't you imagine 11 tribes were disappointed, but the members of Benjamin were jumping up and down with those big foam fingers on their hands? I mean, can't you see that? I can see it.

45:17

Maybe I shouldn't have shared that with you, but I can picture that. Okay, so Benjamin was chosen. Now the leaders of each clan of Benjamin came forward. The lots were cast and God chose the Matrites who happened to be the smallest clan of Benjamin.

45:36

So God was narrowing the field, wasn't He? Now the people knew their king was a Benjaminite and he was coming from the humble Matrites clan. Then the lots were cast to reveal the person God had chosen to be king.

45:56

Everyone probably held their breath in anticipation and God chose Saul the son of Kish. Wow, what an exciting moment, followed immediately by great confusion and concern. Verse 21 says, when they sought him, he could not be found.

46:17

When they looked for Saul, he was nowhere in sight. Saul's clan probably said to each other, look, Saul's got to be around here somewhere. That's his mule parked over there. They probably asked each other questions like, have you checked the snack bar lines?

46:33

Look in the VIP lounge. Should we check the men's rooms? Look at verse 22. So they inquired again of the Lord. Is there a man still to come? And the Lord said, behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.

47:00

And God told Samuel to tell them, behold, your monarch is hiding in that stockpile of baggage over there. You know, come to think of it, tall stacks of baggage would be the perfect hiding place for a tall king.

47:19

Maybe there's a visual metaphor here that should have warned the people that their king comes with a lot of baggage. It's okay. Some commentary suggests that the baggage was military supplies. Well, whatever it was, Saul was using it for cover.

47:41

Okay, now let's look at this situation from Saul's point of view. Saul was not like Simba in The Lion King that sang, oh, I just can't wait to be king. No, no, no, Saul was a humble, shy guy. He did not want the limelight.

48:01

And he was suffering from the worst case of stage fright in history. He knew this moment was coming and he just heard his name called to be the king over the nation of Israel, represented by all those people that probably spread out as far as his eyes could see as he peeked out through the cracks in the baggage.

48:24

Saul had to feel unqualified, underprepared and overwhelmed. Haven't we all felt like Saul? Sometimes do you ever feel underprepared, unqualified? Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Have you ever told the Lord, no, God, I can't do what you're calling me to do.

48:46

Choose somebody else. This was Saul's moment, not to hide from God's plan, but to trust it. This was Saul's moment to step forward in faith, not faith in himself, but faith in the Lord. But Saul could not step forward in faith, why?

49:08

Because his fears had taken him captive. Fear can really overpower our faith sometimes, can't it? One of the ongoing challenges for every believer is learning to trust God at all times, especially when God calls us to step out of our comfort zone into the unknown.

49:39

Matthew Henry wrote this. He wrote, it is good to be conscious of our unworthiness and insufficiency for the services to which we are called, but men should not go into the contrary extreme by refusing the employments to which the Lord and the church call them.

49:58

It's true, isn't it? When God calls us to serve him and he calls every believer to serve him, it's natural for us to feel inadequate and even fearful. That's natural. It's normal, it's normal to feel like God's got to have better choices than us, that's normal.

50:23

It's common for our fear of failure to fight against our faith, that's common. But we all need to recognize something. We all need to recognize those fearful feelings are coming from our flesh, not from the Lord, never from the Lord, always from within us.

50:44

Here's what we need to learn how to do. And I'm praying someday I'll get this. We need to learn to use our feelings of doubt and fear like an alarm that goes off on our phone to remind us. Remind us what?

50:59

Remind us it's time to get our eyes off ourselves and get it back, look back to the Lord and trust him. Trust him. Having doubts and fears does not mean we're bad Christians. It just means we're human.

51:16

And it means we need to bring those doubts and fears and give them to Almighty God so he can set us free from the power those fears have over us. Saul was overcome by his fears because that's all he could think about.

51:35

He had forgotten about the God who called him and the God who brought him to that moment and the God who would see him through. He had forgotten, too focused on his fears. Brothers and sisters, may I say to you, God knows our weaknesses better than we do.

51:54

And you know what? He's not concerned about them. We don't need to be concerned about them either. It does us no good to dwell on our inadequacies. Instead, it does us great good to focus on God's complete sufficiency in all things.

52:21

We always need to look to God when we're scared because that's where our help comes from. We need to look to God when we're scared, because that's where our help comes from. We need to all come before the Lord and say, I'm not worthy.

52:47

I'm not capable, but I'm yours to command. I'm not worthy. I'm not capable, but father, I'm yours to command. Martin Luther wrote, God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.

53:10

Atta boy, Luther. Got that right. This is great news. This is wonderful news. When we give our whole selves to God, including our shortcomings, including all our doubts and fears, when we give those to God, you know what happens?

53:27

We become empty so God can fill us with Himself. That's how we become empty, and then God can make something of us. God can fill us with Himself. When we come to serve the Lord, we never have to worry about what we don't have, because God supplies everything we need.

53:49

Saul needed to realize God chose him, not because he had all the makings of a king. But because God had all the power to make him a king. Big difference. Maybe you're thinking of a verse that came to mind for me too, Philippians 4:13.

54:09

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Whatever God calls us to do, we can do it. Not through our own power, but through the power of Christ. The Lord never calls us to do something without giving us His power to do it.

54:27

That's His promise. That's His promise. When we trust wholeheartedly in the Lord and follow Him, you know what? We cannot fail. Can't fail. Things may happen that are not the outcomes we expected, but they are always the outcomes that God ordained.

54:50

We who come with a lot of baggage can joyfully and powerfully serve the Lord beyond our expectations when we trust in His strength, not our own. One last note, and we'll move on. If, if we only had ourselves to rely on, then our doubts and fears would make a ton of sense because we all have limitations.

55:16

But since we have Almighty God to rely on, faith in Him makes a ton of sense because He has no limitations. Let's look at verse 23. Then they ran, and they took Him, Saul from there, and when He stood among the people, He was taller than any of the people from His shoulders upward.

55:42

The people did not walk to the baggage area. They ran to go find their king, and sure enough, there He was. What do you think Saul said when they found Him hiding in there? Did He say, oh, hi, guys. I just wanted to get out of the sun for a few minutes?

56:00



I'd like to think maybe, maybe in that moment, He finally yielded to God, and He said, I'm ready, men. Let's go. I'm ready. Like Saul, sometimes we need others to come find us when we're struggling with stuff.

56:22

Sometimes we just need others to come find us when we're struggling with stuff. When they brought Saul out of hiding, there was probably a gasp from that crowd because many of them had never laid eyes on him before.

56:35

And remember, Saul was described in chapter 9 as being the most handsome and tallest man in Israel. Wow. He made a great appearance, great first impression. Let's look at verse 24. And Samuel said to all the people, do you see Him when the Lord is chosen?

56:50

There is none like Him among all the people. And all the people agreed because they shouted, long live the king. Samuel said, you wanted a king that you and all the nations of the world would have to look up to.

57:02

Well, God has given you a man everyone will have to look up to. See, because he's tall and they never mind. We can imagine that the Israel's Treasury Department was already thinking about how great Saul's handsome face would look on their coins, right?

57:21

And the T-shirt designers and the bobblehead makers had to be going nuts. Is it just me, or do you detect just a slight note of sarcasm from Samuel? Sure, Saul looked like a king, but he wasn't acting like a king, was he?

57:40

Kings do not hide in luggage even if it's Gucci. But the people of Israel seemed to overlook that because they had the moment they'd all been waiting for. They all got to get together and shout those immortal words, Long live the king.

57:56

Wow.

57:57

Verse 25, then Samuel gave them a lecture. He told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them down in a book and laid it up before the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.

58:12

Samuel had to do some teaching. He taught them the rights and duties of the king, and this would certainly include the responsibilities of the people to serve their king. And Samuel wrote it all down.

58:23

The people needed an instruction manual because they had never had a king before. Then what happened? Was there a big party at the palace? Well, no. Israel didn't have a palace. Didn't even have a capital city at that time, so Samuel just sent everybody home.

58:41

Sort of anticlimactic, isn't it? Wow, long live the king. Okay, we're gonna go home. Let's finish the chapter of verses 26 and 27. Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.

58:59

But some worthless fellows said, how can this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no present, but he held his peace. Saul was probably very relieved to get out of there, but his life had already changed forever.

59:15

When he went home, he wasn't alone. God had touched the hearts of some really, really good men, and they became devoted to Saul, and they followed. They went with him to be at his side. They probably became his future leaders.

59:30

Our passage ends with Saul, that the shy, frightened guy from the baggage pile now truly being a leader of valiant men as the king of Israel. Of course, as the saying goes, you can't please everybody, right?

59:48

In contrast to the men of valor whose hearts God touched, there were some worthless people in that crowd that just wanted to gripe. That never happens today, right? They said, how can this man, how can this guy save us?

01:00:06

Their words revealed their worthless thoughts. They were trusting in a man to save them, not God. For whatever reason, we aren't told, they really despise Saul, but they weren't just sneering at Saul, were they?

01:00:22

They were mocking God's choice. They were disrespecting God's chosen leader, and the Bible describes them as worthless for doing so. This should give us all something to think about before we mock or disrespect the leaders God places over us.

01:00:43

These complainers must have also been loud talkers because our passage says that Saul held his peace. This means Saul heard them. Saul heard those disrespectful words, but he chose not to respond to them.

01:00:54

Saul showed real kingly wisdom in this moment to just trust God and go home. Okay, let's look at four quick takeaways and we'll be done, but these are good. These are good. You picked a great day to come to church.

01:01:09

These are four really great gems from our Lord. Takeaway one, how we live and what we do is based on who we follow. How we live and what we do is based on who we follow. People of Israel decided they wanted to follow a king instead of the Lord, and that decision tragically impacted how they would live and what they would do in the years ahead.

01:01:38

At Rock CC, we love to follow Jesus, but I think we all need to see the warning for each of us in this passage. Like the people of Israel, we too, every one of us, is under constant pressure to put ourselves or put someone else on the throne of our life instead of Jesus.

01:02:00

Every day, you and I, we have to honestly answer the question, what's really and truly more important to us? To be like people in the world or to be the person God has called me to be? What's really and truly more important to us?

01:02:21

How we live and what we do is based on who we follow. Takeaway two, we serve such a great God, so full of love, patience, mercy, and grace. He remains faithful even when we do not deserve it, and we should be grateful for that every day of our lives.

01:02:46

Takeaway three, our greatest moments of doubt and fear should be our greatest moments of prayer and meditation on the promises of God in His Word. God calls every believer to serve Him in some way, and it's natural for us to feel some amount of fear and concern about our own abilities to handle the call.

01:03:07

But our passage has shown us it does us no good to dwell on our insecurities and inadequacies, but it does us great good to focus on God's complete sufficiency in all things. What is God calling you to do that you're afraid of?

01:03:28

Don't hide from God's plan for your life. Trust it. Give the Lord everything you've got, including your baggage. He's better at handling your baggage than you are. Don't be held captive by your fears.

01:03:47

Give your fears to God. Give your fears to God. Let go of them and then cling with all you've got to the power of God. Let go of the fears. Cling to God's power. It doesn't mean your fears naturally go away, although they can.

01:04:06

But what it does mean when you cling to God's strength is you will discover your fears no longer have the power to hold you captive. Fears can't hold you captive when you're clinging to God's power. Last takeaway.

01:04:24

How we finish is more important than how we start. It's all started out with such great promise, didn't it? Yeah, okay. He had that little human moment of fear at Mizpah. But other than that, look at him.

01:04:37

He had the impressive looks to be a leader that everyone wanted to follow. He was chosen by God. He was cheered by his nation. God surrounded him with valiant men, really good guys. And Saul showed real wisdom in dealing with his critics.

01:04:52

Saul started out with all these wonderful blessings, all these wonderful advantages. But on the long road of life ahead, what will Saul do? How will he finish? Will he continue to walk with the Lord or will he go his own way and spoil all those great blessings that God gave him at the start?

01:05:12

We need to come back next week and in the weeks to come to see how Saul is going to deal with that choice. And in the meantime, you and I, we have to decide every day. We have to decide every hour, every minute.

01:05:27

Will we trust and follow the Lord no matter what or will we go our own way? Our prayer team will be here to pray with you at the end of the service if you'd like them to pray, anything going on in your life.

01:05:41

We also have a prayer wall right outside the door to the right. You can just write your request out. Don't have to sign it and you will be prayed for. Will you pray with me, please? Father, thank you for your word today.

01:05:54

Thank you just for showing us that you are so faithful, always so faithful to us. And we know, we know our faith can run hot and cold at different times. And we also know though, Lord, we can get so focused on our weaknesses and failures that it can make, we don't mean to, but it can make us doubt the plan and purpose you have for our lives.

01:06:17

Father, you call us all to serve you. What a privilege of privileges that is to serve you, but it's more natural for us to hide from your call rather than answer that call. Help us all learn to use our fearful feelings like alarms that remind us it's time to get our eyes off ourselves and look to you.

01:06:37

Help us all just say to you from the depths of our heart, Lord, I know I'm not worthy. I know I'm not capable, but I'm yours to command. Help us give our whole selves to you, including our doubts and fears and all our shortcomings, all our baggage, so we can be empty of ourselves so you can fill us with yourself.

01:06:56

And we ask all these things in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.