

When God Calls the Unqualified

Children's Sabbath

A Sermon by the Youth at CFUMC

1 Samuel 17:19-23, 27-30, 35-37, 42-50

November 9, 2025

1 Cor 1:16-30, Isaiah 11:6

"I cannot do this! God, seriously, there must be someone better for the job than me!"

Have those words ever echoed in your heart when you felt God nudging you toward something bigger than yourself? Maybe they were not spoken aloud, but they whispered through your thoughts, heavy with doubt and fear. I remember vividly the moment I was asked to lead a Bible study group years ago. My immediate reaction was pure disbelief: "Me? Why me? I am not qualified. I am not strong enough. I do not have what it takes." The idea was terrifying. I felt like I was being asked to climb a mountain barefoot, blindfolded, and alone.

Even though kind-hearted people around me reassured me that God would equip me with everything I needed, my inner voice always responded with a polite but firm, "Thanks, but no thanks." I felt unworthy, incapable, and overwhelmed—both in my mind and in the depths of my heart. If you've ever felt unqualified for what God is calling you to do, you're not alone. In fact, you're in very good company.

For a long time, I believed I had to be perfect before God could use me. I thought I needed to have all the answers, all the strength, all the spiritual maturity. But here's the truth: God doesn't call the perfect—because perfection doesn't exist. He calls the broken, the flawed, the insecure, and the uncertain. He calls those who feel like they're the least likely candidates. Why? Because His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Because when we are at the end of ourselves, we are at the beginning of Him.

God often chooses us because of our shortcomings, not in spite of them. Whether our limitations are real or imagined, they become the very canvas upon which God paints His glory. We are all beautifully, intentionally, and perfectly imperfect. And that's exactly the kind of person God delights in using.

You might feel like you lack courage, wisdom, education, strength, experience, or knowledge. But those feelings don't disqualify you—they

prepare you. They humble you. They make you dependent on God, which is exactly where He wants you to be. I had to learn to lean not on my own understanding, but to trust in the Lord's provision, His wisdom, and His timing.

In God's kingdom, there is no such thing as "unqualified." That label doesn't exist in His vocabulary. So let me ask you: What opportunities to serve and honor God have you walked away from because you felt inadequate? What is God calling you to do today? Take a moment to pray. Ask Him where He wants you to serve. It might be something simple—like greeting people at church, helping someone find a seat, or volunteering at a local food pantry. Or it might be something that feels monumental—like going on a mission trip, mentoring a young believer, or even leading a Bible study.

And if you've missed a calling before, don't despair. God is not a one-and-done kind of God. He is the God of second chances, third chances, and seventy-times-seven chances. His grace is abundant, and His patience is endless.

Remember Moses? When God called him to speak to Pharaoh, Moses protested. He said, "I'm slow of speech and tongue." He felt unqualified, ill-equipped, and afraid. But God didn't abandon Moses to figure it out on his own. He promised to be with him, to teach him, and to speak through him. And over time, God molded Moses into the leader He needed him to be.

Now, I don't think God will ask you or me to lead millions of people through the desert while being chased by an army. But if He did, we'd need His power just as much as Moses did. The truth is, we need His power for everything—even the small things. Because it's not about what we can do. It's about what He can do through us.

God specializes in using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He delights in showing His greatness through our weakness.

We are messy, mistake-prone, and often afraid—but we are deeply loved by a God who sees beyond our flaws and calls us anyway.

He does not wait for us to be perfect. He calls us as we are, and then He shapes us into who we are meant to be. Like clay in the hands of a master

potter, we are formed, refined, and strengthened by His touch. All He asks is that we trust Him, lean on Him, and say yes—even when we're trembling.

And those giants in your life? The ones that seem too big to conquer—whether they are financial burdens, medical diagnoses, intimidating people, or overwhelming circumstances—they never look up. Giants think they are the biggest thing in the room. They demand your attention and try to convince you that they are in control. But they forget that there is a power far greater than them.

Paul reminds us in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" And often, the answer is: we are. We are the ones who doubt, who hesitate, who disqualify ourselves. We place burdens on our shoulders that God never intended us to carry. We chase perfection when God is simply asking for obedience.

So today, let go of the need to be perfect. Let go of the fear that you are not enough. And lean into the truth that God is more than enough. He is for you. He is with you. And He is calling you—not because you are flawless, but because you are willing.

Are you ready to say yes?