

weakness, reluctance, and inadequacy, You would use Your church to do Your will on earth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

Question 1:

1. He comes alongside us, calms our fears and feelings of inadequacy, and comforts us in all our affliction. (2 Corinthians 1:4 ESV)
2. He gives us strength to persevere, we need only ask. (Isaiah 40:29-31)
3. He places us where He needs us and supplies our needs when we are lacking. (Psalm 37:23-34 ESV)

Question 2:

Pastor David said that reluctant faith does not disqualify us from becoming disciples. God will make known to us what is necessary for the mission with which He tasks us. For example, Jesus shows Thomas the holes in His hands, which is enough to make Thomas believe and share his belief with others (John 20:24). However, Jesus does not give Thomas or any of the other disciples step-by-step instructions. Each disciple doubted at different points, but it did not stop them from boldly proclaiming the Gospel. We should look to our faith and trust God's provision when we lack understanding or have doubts.

Question 3:

In Luke 5, we see that Jesus is first teaching from the Word. He then teaches by using fishing as an illustration. In the disciples' own strength, their efforts had been fruitless all through the night. As Peter trusts Jesus and obeys Him, he hands over the results to the Lord and allows Him to do a great work through the "unqualified" men that Jesus called (Acts 4:33).

We cannot do anything in our own strength or wisdom (2 Cor. 12:9), but as we hand over control to God and trust Him, His power fills us, and His grace is sufficient for His callings and our every need (Eph. 3:7).

Question 4:

The Lord does not call the qualified, He qualifies those whom He calls (through the power of the Holy Spirit). It is God's loving plan that every believer uses their God-given gifts and talents to serve Him and others. We are to rely on the Lord and allow Him to work through us to share our story, the Gospel, and to glorify His name (1 Cor. 22; Isaiah 6:8). This may include our personal testimony and the ways in which God has changed our heart, circumstances, or relationships (Ezekiel 36:26; Jer. 29:11). Jesus will speak through us and give us the wisdom and words to be an effective witness to Him (1 Peter 4:11).

Question 5:

As we trust the Lord to work in and through us, believers can hand their thoughts, words, decisions, and actions over to God (Proverbs 3:5-6). The seeds we plant in the minds and hearts of those who need Jesus are ultimately grown and harvested by the Lord alone. We are to remain faithful to God in answering His callings on our hearts to proclaim the Gospel (Gal. 6:9).

Some of the ways we can be effective "fishers of men" include claiming God's promises to believers in His word, glorifying Him and giving Him credit when He grants us victories in this life, radiating his love by loving others, sharing our faith in Christ and the hope of eternal life, and praising Him for the strength He gives us by living in our hearts (1 John 4:4).