

Isaiah 41:8-10 (NIV)

8 “But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, 9 I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. 10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

You might find this hard to believe, but people aren’t lining up to go and share the gospel with their friends, relatives, and neighbors. People find it extremely difficult to do that. They find it intimidating, even scary. Why? I have a theory. People fear rejection. They fear confrontation. They fear making a mistake or not knowing the answer to every question. In my opinion, fear is the number one reason why people don’t share their faith.

This portion of Isaiah closes out our week-long look at servant hood. And what a comforting message it contains! God reminds us that it is not because of our great résumé that we are God’s servants nor is it because of our vast potential. We are God’s servants because he chose us simply out of his grace. Just like he chose Jacob and Abraham, God has chosen us from the farthest corners of the earth to be his servants. He chose us, he called us, and he will not reject us because of Jesus. Jesus has made us God’s children. He has washed us clean in his blood. He has given us the sure hope of everlasting life. No one can take that away from us and God will not abandon us!

So what’s to be afraid of? There’s nothing to fear in sharing our faith, in serving our Savior, because he is with us. We don’t have to fret over whether or not we said everything perfectly because God is our God. He can take even our broken thoughts and incomplete sentences and work through them to proclaim his saving truth. When doubts creep into our mind about people rejecting our message, ignore them. God promises to uphold us and strengthen us and help us. If people reject what we are saying, they’re rejecting God, not us. God has not rejected us nor will he reject us.

What great comfort and motivation to serve with our faith by sharing that faith. The promise of God’s blessing and help is all we need. No matter what the outcome, God will work through his Word to accomplish what he desires. What a privilege to share in that work.