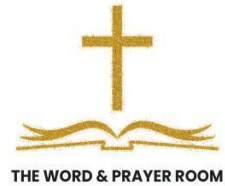


The Uncomfortable Call Series

The Call of Moses



Day 4: The Excuses That Expose the Heart

Because God's love responds to the insecurities your logic defends.

Key Scripture: Exodus 4:10–16 (NLT)

"But Moses pleaded with the Lord, 'O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.' Then the Lord asked Moses, 'Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear, or do not hear, see, or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.' But Moses again pleaded, 'Lord, please! Send anyone else.' Then the Lord became angry with Moses. 'All right,' he said. 'What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say.'

Context: When the Called Argue with the Caller

The fire has faded into smoke. The divine voice that once thundered with authority now lingers, calm and persistent, in conversation. The desert air still carries the scent of holiness, yet what fills it now is protest. Moses, trembling before the bush that burned but was not consumed, begins to speak - not words of worship, but words of resistance.

He has just experienced the most extraordinary encounter imaginable. God Himself has revealed His name "I AM WHO I AM." The ground beneath him has been declared holy, and the command has been clear: "Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:10). But it's interesting that revelation does not always automatically produce readiness.

What happens next is painfully human. The man standing before divine glory begins to unravel with excuses. For every “Go,” Moses offers a “But.” For every assurance, he raises a question. It is one of the most honest exchanges in Scripture - the collision between divine certainty and human insecurity.

Moses has spent forty years running from Egypt and from himself. His self-image has hardened into failure. The memory of killing an Egyptian, the shame of rejection by his own people, and the weight of four decades in obscurity have shaped his internal monologue: You’re finished. You’re forgotten. You’re not enough. So, when God calls, Moses doesn’t hear opportunity - he hears accusation.

We often meet God the same way. We don’t doubt His power; we doubt His judgment for choosing us. Our minds become legal chambers where we build cases against our own calling. We gather evidence - past sins, current flaws, lingering fears - and present it to heaven as if we’re protecting God from disappointment.

Moses begins that very trial. “Who am I that I should go?” (3:11). “What if they don’t believe me?” (4:1). “I can’t speak well.” (4:10). Behind every objection is not unbelief in God’s existence but disbelief in His evaluation. He believes God is great; he just doesn’t believe that God’s made the best decision. Yet God keeps engaging. He doesn’t thunder or threaten; He reasons, reassures, and reminds. “I will be with you.” “I will give you the words.” “I am the God of your fathers.” The same voice that could shatter mountains now bends to soothe insecurity. Divine patience meets human fragility.

Still, Moses persists. The longer he argues, the more his logic sounds like he’s being realistic, when really, he’s just afraid. That’s the tragedy of insecurity - it convinces you that self-protection is humility when it’s really unbelief in disguise. Then comes the astonishing twist: God’s love makes accommodation. When Moses finally pleads, “Please send someone else,” heaven does not withdraw the call. Instead, God appoints Aaron as helper - not to replace Moses, but to stand beside him. The sovereign God of the universe chooses partnership over punishment.

This reveals something breathtaking about His nature. God's sovereignty is not cold authority - it's relational compassion. He could have commanded obedience by force, but He chooses persuasion through love. He addresses the fear even as He confronts it. That is the mystery of grace: God doesn't ignore weakness; He integrates it into His plan. He doesn't erase your limitation; He redeems it through community. The story of Aaron's inclusion tells us that heaven is willing to rearrange the team if it means keeping you on the journey.

Moses's insecurity didn't surprise God; it exposed an area where God's strength would shine. The call remained the same, but the delivery became shared. Love found a way to keep the reluctant Moses connected to his mission.

Focus of the Day: Calling vs. Condemnation.

When God calls, He speaks to your future; when shame answers, it speaks from your past. Between those two voices lies a battlefield called obedience. Moses teaches us that calling does not begin with competence - it often begins with confrontation. Before you can lead others out of bondage, you must first confront the prison of your own unbelief. Dialogue with God is not defiance; it's exposure. Every "I can't" uncovers where fear still governs faith.

We often romanticise calling as instant courage, but the truth is raw: it usually begins with argument. We fight the very thing we prayed for. We ask God to use us, then panic when He takes us seriously. We want purpose, but not process; glory, but not growth; calling, but not cost. Because God's love answers the insecurities your logic defends. He listens to every protest without changing His mind. He refuses to redefine your worth by your wounds. His patience is not indulgence - it's investment.

Moses wanted to disappear into the desert; God wanted to turn that desert into destiny. The conversation at the burning bush isn't about eloquence - it's about trust. Moses's mouth is not the issue; his mindset is. The real stammer isn't in his tongue but in his belief. And still, God provides. His love doesn't ignore fear; it works around it. He brings Aaron not as a crutch but as confirmation: You are not alone.

This is the heart of divine partnership - sovereignty wrapped in empathy. God could have said, “Do it or I’ll find another.” Instead, He says, “I’ll send someone to stand beside you.” That’s not weakness in God; that’s tenderness in strength. It shows us that omnipotence is never insecure. You see, when you run out of excuses, you meet God’s divine Grace.

Why We Struggle to Believe We’re Called

- **Because failure feels more familiar than favour.** We’ve learned to live in survival mode so long that success feels suspicious when it finally arrives.
- **Because we confuse humility with hesitation.** We call it being humble when really, we’re just afraid to believe God could mean what He said.
- **Because we assume God uses confidence, not confession.** We forget that He builds His greatest works through those honest enough to admit they’re not qualified.
- **Because grace feels unsafe when you live under constant guilt.** When you’ve been trained to earn everything, unconditional love feels like a trap, not a gift.
- **Because we think God wants perfection when He actually wants presence.** We keep trying to perform for Him when all He ever asked for was to walk with Him.

Detailed Scripture Breakdown: Exodus 4:10–16 (NLT)

- **In verse 10, Moses finally names his fear aloud: “O Lord, I’m not very good with words.”** Here we see insecurity in its most polished form - self-awareness turned into self-sabotage. Moses doesn’t exaggerate; he tells the truth through the wrong lens. Yes, he struggles with speech, but God didn’t ask him to be a flawless orator; He simply asked him to obey. We do the same. We magnify what’s human until it overshadows what’s holy. God is not concerned by the weakness we confess; He is concerned by the strength we pretend to have.

- **In verse 11, God responds, not with correction, but with revelation: “Who makes a person’s mouth?”** He draws Moses’s attention away from his flaw and back to his Maker. This is theology in its purest form - identity anchored in creation. The same hands that formed his mouth now forms his mission. In other words, God is saying, You can’t insult your design without insulting your Designer.
- **In verse 12, the command becomes clearer: “Now go! I will be with you as you speak.”** Here we see divine impatience wrapped in compassion. God refuses to debate fear any longer; He calls for movement. He promises His presence, not perfection. It’s a reminder that obedience grows through steps, not certainty
- **Then in verse 13, Moses pleads one more time: “Please send someone else.”** The excuses have run their course, and what remains is raw avoidance. It’s no longer about capability; it’s about control. Moses doesn’t fear failure - he fears responsibility. This is where many leaders stall: the terror of being visible after years of invisibility.
- **In verse 14, we read, “Then the Lord became angry with Moses.”** This anger is not wrath but passion - the fierce love of a Father refusing to let fear dictate destiny. God’s emotion here shows His heart. He is not indifferent to our excuses; He is moved by what they steal from us. His anger defends our potential.
- **In verses 15 and 16, God offers the unexpected remedy: Aaron will be your mouthpiece.** This moment reveals divine flexibility without compromise. God doesn’t change His plan; He expands it. He introduces companionship where fear had created isolation. Aaron becomes a living symbol of God’s empathy - evidence that calling was never designed to be carried alone.

What We Can Learn for Our Calling Today

- God doesn’t wait for confidence; He builds it through collaboration.
- Your excuses reveal where intimacy with God still needs to grow.
- Grace doesn’t erase fear; it gives you the courage to walk through it.

- Help is not a sign of weakness - it's evidence of God's heart.
- When God calls you, He already accounted for your hesitations.
- The proof of His sovereignty is His patience with your process.

Key Themes

- God's call exposes insecurity to heal identity.
- Divine love doesn't dismiss fear; it transforms it.
- God accommodates weakness without adjusting His purpose.
- Partnership is God's language of compassion.
- Every "I can't" is met by God's "I will."

Practical Application

- **Step 1: Name Your Excuses.** Write them down exactly as you've said them to God. Then, beside each one, write His response: "I will be with you."
- **Step 2: Embrace Your Aaron.** Who has God placed near you to strengthen what you lack? Honour the help rather than despise it.
- **Step 3: Reframe Your Weakness.** Ask God to show you how your limitation can become the location of His glory.
- **Step 4: Replace Analysis with Action.** You don't need another sign; you need a step. Start walking and let obedience gather its evidence.
- **Step 5: Thank God for His Patience.** Remember how many times He could have given up on you but didn't. Gratitude turns shame into worship.

Declarations

- God knew my limitations before He called me.
- My weakness is the place where His strength speaks loudest.
- I will stop repeating excuses and start practising obedience.
- God's sovereignty includes mercy for my hesitation.
- Grace has already out-argued and overcome my fear.

Prayer

Father, Thank You for calling me even when I argue against myself. When I hide behind logic that sounds reasonable, expose the fear beneath it. When I use humility as a mask for disbelief, strip it away with truth. Remind me that You chose me knowing every flaw, every failure, every fear - and You called me anyway. Your Word declares, "Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say." (Exodus 4:12) Anchor my heart in that promise. Teach me to trust Your presence more than my performance.

Help me see that obedience is not about perfection but about proximity - staying close enough to hear Your instruction. Thank You for the Aarons You send - voices that steady my stammer, companions that carry what I cannot. Your sovereignty could have sent me alone, but Your love chose to send me supported. Let that truth rewrite my definition of strength. When I am tempted to withdraw, draw me closer. When I feel unworthy, remind me that grace is not a reward - it's Your nature. Burn away my need to control the outcome, and teach me to trust the journey. Let obedience rise louder than insecurity, and let my life prove that Your patience is stronger than my fear. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Final Reflection

Moses's story reminds us that God never abandons those who hesitate - He walks with them until trust overtakes fear. Every excuse Moses raised became a place where God's character was revealed. The fire that called him now burns within him, but grace is the flame's fuel. You may still be arguing with God, building a case to prove you're unqualified. But He already factored that in. He isn't surprised by your weakness - He planned for it. That's why He sent help before you even asked. Because love doesn't remove you from the mission when you hesitate; it writes mercy into the method. And the God who once shared His mission with Moses and Aaron still invites you to stand in the same partnership of grace today.

In tomorrow's study, we will follow Moses and Aaron back into Egypt - where obedience meets opposition and faith is tested in the presence of power. Blessings as you meditate, hear what the Lord is saying, and act in obedience.