

## “Who Is Adequate For These Things?”

Profound...the likes of you and me being called “the children of God.”

Amazing...the great depths to which God Himself plunged in His love for us.

August...coming into the glorious presence of an incomparable God, fellowship!!

My assessment of my service to Christ must never be regarded as drudgery, small or meaningless. Our approach to worship together must never spiral downward to the extent that it becomes stale, listless, uninviting, and worst of all, boring! Because the more one thinks about it, the more astounding and overwhelming they should be in our minds. May we never cease marveling over what God has done **and continues to do** for us! He saved us—that’s a wow! But even more, He promises to come to our aid when tempted (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15,16) and He can do “exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

Paul delves into near speechlessness in his second preserved epistle to the Corinthians, “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma of death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life, and who is adequate for these things?” (2:14-16).

So the Corinthians will not believe Paul is boasting in himself, he further explains, “And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God” (3:4,5). Our adequacy is no less. All that I am, all that I have learned, all that I have served in His kingdom, **all of it is because of Him**. After all, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen!” (Romans 11:36)

### Preachers & Teachers

At times, I feel woefully inadequate for the task. My greatest fear is to bore people with the greatest and most exciting message in the world. The challenge also is to be balanced in my declaration of “the whole purpose of God” (Acts 20:27). I want to do everything within my power as a student of the word and as an instructor to solicit a response that pleases our heavenly Father. That means attempting to excel in persuasion of others (2 Corinthians 5:11).

May the Lord provide the preacher and teacher of truth with a sufficient passion for the task and an ability to display the serious nature of this message to those who listen. I am still amused when men publicly pray for the preacher to have “a ready recollection

of the things he has prepared.” As I get older, the recollection of thoughts is becoming an increasingly more important matter to me! Sometimes, I literally sit on the pew before preaching wondering how I am going to accomplish this awesome task. When I feel weak or incapable, I simply ask God to help me and give me strength. I place my complete confidence in Him.

## Elders

How overwhelming is the God-given responsibility toward the flock. Each sheep is precious and one for whom the elder will give account (Hebrews 13:17). Wolves must be watched and thwarted in their savage attempts to do harm (Acts 20:28-30). The high calling must be realized “...proving to be examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3). For a job well done, an “unfading crown of glory” is promised (1 Peter 5:4). Dependence through prayer is essential for the successful completion of the task.

## Worshippers

Who can say, “I’ve always given worship the whole heart that it deserves?” My attempts at praise seem woefully weak at times compared to what He deserves.

First, does your perspective need to change? I do not **have to** worship on the Lord’s Day. Rather, I am quite privileged to do so. I am not merely fulfilling an obligation or command, I am so very blessed. I sing heartily with my mind & voice, not just because that’s what we always do. I pray fervently, realizing that my thoughts are attended to at heaven’s throne. I partake of the Supper, knowing that an awful price was paid for my salvation. I approach the throne of God with my whole heart in utter astonishment. Knowledge of Him and fellowship with Him is my delight and my peace. I see my fellow worshipers, not as an annoyance, but as brethren, fellow servants, and fellow heirs.

Give me the perspective of Habakkuk, O Lord, even when days are difficult and dreary, “Yet, I will exult in the Lord...He makes me walk on my high places” (Habakkuk 3:17-19). The source of our adequacy is not ourselves, but a powerful God who loves us and can richly supply all of our need (Philippians 4:19).

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