

HIS SUFFICIENCY FOR OUR INSUFFICIENCY
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2Corinthians 3:1-6-AMP

1 ARE WE starting to commend ourselves again? Or we do not, like some [false teachers], need written credentials or letters of recommendation to you or from you, [do we]?
2 [No], you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody.
3 You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
4 Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God.
5 Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God.
6 [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.

The Passion says:

4 We carry this confidence in our hearts because of our union with Christ before God.
5 Yet we don't see ourselves as capable enough to do anything in our own strength, for our true competence flows from God's empowering presence.
6 He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law but through the power of the Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life.

Inadequate: Insufficient for a purpose; insufficient to affect the task; inadequate power, strength, resources.

CJB - It is not that we are ...competent in ourselves... our competence is from God.

Competent: Suitable; sufficient, that is, fit for the purpose; adequate, having adequate power.

1. GOD IS NOT LIMITED TO OUR LIMITATIONS.

2 Corinthians 2:16 NAS - ... "Who is adequate for these things? **CJB** - ... "Who is equal to such a task?" **ISV** - ... "Who is qualified for this?" **The Scriptures** - ... "Who is competent for these?"

Exodus 4:10-16(NIV)

10 Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."
11 The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?
12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."
13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."
14 Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you.
15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

John 15:5- CJB

"I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing.

2. GOD'S ADEQUACY IS UNLIMITED TO US.

Adequacy: sufficient; a sufficiency for a particular purpose; as, "the adequacy of supply to the giving out."

1Corinthians 2:3-4 – CJB

Also I myself was with you as somebody weak, nervous and shaking all over from fear;
4 and neither the delivery nor the content of my message relied on compelling words of "wisdom" but on a demonstration of the power of the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:7- CJB

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it will be evident that such overwhelming power comes from God and not from us.

2Corinthians 12:7-10 – Passion

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this.
9 But he answered me, "My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness." So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me.
10 So I'm not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I'm surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God's power.

Romans 8:26 - Passion

...And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness.

3. GOD ALSO USES THE COMPETENCE OF OTHERS TO HELP US.

Exodus 18:21 – CJB

But you should choose from among all the people competent men who are God fearing, honest and incorruptible to be their leaders, in charge of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Ephesians 6:10 - GW

Finally, receive your power from the Lord and from his mighty strength.