

Not Perfect but Qualified!

Read if you're in Need

You're not perfect? Don't worry, you've got lots of very "good" company if you're related to God!

If He lives in you, you're qualified to live this life on earth since He makes you more than "just adequate" to handle all those tough times!

If you don't have any ...then no need to read further.

When we're *obsessed by our weakness*, our *age*, our *sinfulness*, our *failures*, and all the rest of our *inadequacies*, we fear and fret!

On the other hand, if we're *obsessed by the consciousness of our capabilities* we can become proud and get even farther from the joy that could be our's.

Some good advice from One Who knew:

If you have put your "hand to the plough don't turn back", says the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't let discouragement paralyze you.

Press onward.

He's coming back for you soon and that's for sure!

Consider these who failed, time and time again ...*yet God pursued them*:

- Adam and Eve hid from God Who could see everything and knew everything.

They were dishonest enough to not answer God's question in the Garden of Eden so changed the subject to blame one another ...or "someone else".

Let's think of some more sweeping, maybe even *random* examples of the "good company" you're in ...even though they were fearing and fretting... qualified by God!

If you read the Bible, you'll remember these stories:

Moses stuttered so claimed inadequacy to stand up to the powers of Egypt and to his countrymen to speak what God was giving him to speak.

David, a Shepherd boy tried on armor that didn't fit so conquered the enemy with a sling shot BUT:

- later, in position of King had an affair.

- he planned a cover-up.

- "Plan A" failed so he tried "Plan B" and failed again ...so finally murdered his servant... all for selfish protection.

We remember though, that long before that, David had been considered too young, to inexperienced and therefore inadequate for the job in front of him.

He was successful when he was "just a shepherd".

What happened when he became a king?

Well, he never did become "old enough" to qualify ...even when he was old!

How about some Prophets of God?

Hosea's wife was a prostitute.

Amos' only training was in the school of pruning fig-trees.

Jacob cheated, lied and schemed to get what he wanted!

Solomon was too rich.

- had great wisdom, yet he found all things foolish, empty and meaningless.
- had great wealth yet he found no satisfaction in amassing "more".
- had one wife but that was not enough ...nor were scores of them for that matter!

Abraham was too old.

- Between him and Sarah they decided they couldn't and therefore wouldn't have children. Children was not the "issue" but "faith" and God's timing and reasons which they didn't know 'til later!

- They came up with a mutually agreeable plan to have a child through relations with their female servant ...scoring apparent success and finding later that it was a miserable failure!

- Their "good ideas" were apparently not good enough for God since He rejected the whole plan!

- Through both of them God fulfilled His plan for Isaac and thrilled their hearts! Later, Abraham "half-lied" to the King about his wife ...willing to put his wife at risk to save his own neck! What would *you* do? Would you blame him?

Saul of Tarsus a Pharisee and well known in the higher ranks of learning ...well taught in the Scriptures ...yet never knew Christ.

- Tried to serve God yet in doing so with all his heart, he "persecuted" Christ!
- Helped with the killing of Stephen.

When Jesus was about to change his name to "Paul" to give him a very special service:

- He was a well known preacher
- But he left his wife behind on most trips ...mmm... was *that good or bad?*
- He had the disqualifying reputation of being a *pathetic public speaker*.
- But kept on preaching.
- Well known in the king's courts and jails as a Roman prisoner
- He was held in chains ...as far as the public knew, accused of illegalities

deserving of ...well... would it be death or maybe dying in that condition?

- shamed and mocked
- Yet powerful and still preaching ...OH YES ...and still singing!

Paul the Apostle wrote powerful letters to Believers in Jesus, "people of the Way" but have you considered the *grammar?* Oh, my word! *Long sentences* and *paragraphs that*

were too lofty in thought even for the most modern and scholastic experts ...*to this day!*

John Mark was rejected by the Apostle Paul because Paul didn't want to have a "helper" who might quit on him again!

- John Mark was at the mercy of someone who might be willing to train him ...quitter as he was!

Evangelists Paul and Barnabas worked and travelled together for a while...

- But they had a fight over John Mark's worthiness to be trained!
- They *couldn't submit to each other* so even *they parted ways!*

Timothy, though faithful to his leader Paul, had stomach issues that challenged his life!

- Timid personality, lacking confidence.
- Needed boldness of heart to stand up to the educated, harsh folk who looked down on his "youth" too!

The Apostle Peter was afraid of death...

- ...who *isn't?*...
- But he was determined to follow Jesus ...ALL the way!
- At the end of his training, he was looking over his shoulder, jealous of John.
- Rebuked by Jesus right at the end of his training!
- Can he *ever win?*

Yes, Peter was a "loser" yet became a winner!

- Dedicately determined to "follow Jesus Christ His Master and Lord".

Lazarus was dead and raised again!

- After rising from the dead he was plagued by those who jealously chased him down to kill him again!

The Apostle John was somewhat seen as self-righteous.

- Kind of a softy, not really a "man's man".
- Yet he followed Jesus to the end ...martyred for his stubborn faith in Christ!

Jesus was too poor tho the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

- born of a virgin girl
- adopted by a Carpenter
- He lived a "commoner's life".
- He was untrained in the ways of religion and scriptures.
- He seemed a wanderer
- despised by his siblings and mocked at being out of his mind.

Jesus' preaching was complex ...? **AND complicated?**

- Where were His "points" and what about a "conclusion"?
- No linear points to his sermons
- No teaching tools and no handouts for notes for listeners to take home
- When too hard to obey Him, the people just said they were "hard sayings" and left it at that! What was hard was not the understanding but the obedience!

Jesus' sermons were so long, people didn't have time to eat or go home before dark!

At the height of popularity He issued *severe words of warning* to "would be disciples who would give Him a "majority vote" (that's what *we* seem to like)!

- Seemingly often discouraging people from following Him for the things He did and gave to them.

- His parables were pointed and hit the mark.

- His arguments left the Textual Professionals so "put down" they got mad and concluded the only answer was to kill Him! Have you ever felt that way?! Hu!

- His skills of Public Relations often **embarrassed His own disciples** and **angered**

Jesus enemies.

- He was supposed to be a Shepherd of the Sheep and the true "Fisher of men":

- Yet He seemed to repulse the majority who were attracted to Him.

No, Jesus Christ surely didn't qualify! ...at least not from a public perspective!

Back to some Prophets and others:

Jonah ran from God.

- When successfully preaching to a nation he grumbled that they listened!

- *Whatever!*

- He *grumbled at a worm* and *was wrapped up in his own "pitty party"*.

- Of course, as most of us know, that's not "hard to do".

Gideon's story is plagued by *doubting* though enthusiastically leading others.

- Absolutely *determined to follow God* wholeheartedly.

- But after a bout of doubt... he ended up compromising in his lust for "more" or "just **some** more"!

- Of course, he had outrightly proclaimed that it was God's victory and that he would not take the credit!

Jeremiah was depressed and apparently suicidal. Not good company if you're having a "bad day".

Elijah was burned out.

- He basically resigned his Divine calling through being *self absorbed*.

- He was an elitist, claiming to be at the end of his rope 'cause there was nobody else with the same spiritual interests and uncompromising heart!

- Yet it was pride and narrowmindedness!
- He had a dangerously *contageous disease* of "*remnantitis*".

Noah got drunk.

- How had he raised his kids to be so immoral?

Eli too, overweight; a glutton; careless in training and controlling his son's as priests

- not even knowing the voice of God though being the High Priest!
- he died in distress of his evil sons!
- They were evil, idolatrous and greedy but it seemed to late to rescue them!
- What happened to *their* spiritual training?

The Apostle Thomas is still known for being a doubter!

- "**Doubting Thomas**" became his "call name"!
- Never losing the reputation as "Doubting Thomas" he was martyred in an eastern land thousands of miles from home ...not for doubting; but his stubborn faith in Christ!

John the Baptist was loudmouth and had harsh words for the crowds. He was known to look like a pretty wild man!

Martha was a diligent worker in practical things

- But her hard and diligent work didn't seem to qualify her in front of Jesus.
- Kind of a "worry-wart".
- Jealous of her sister who just "sat and wondered" at the feet of Jesus!

Mary seemed lazy and uncooperative in the preparations for the Lord's meal!

- But Martha lacked the devotion that Mary had.

It's always intriguing that God didn't require a job interview from any of these failures; these "imperfects" of His kingdom.

- He still doesn't.

He's our Heavenly Father, not judging sin nor condoning it: ready to forgive & empower!

God never condoned evil and never called a committee to get a majority consensus.

- He still doesn't.

God is always "here" to *save and not condemn!*

Though He is the Just Judge, He's here to save!
He condemns sin to save the "imperfects"!

The Lord Jesus Christ paid the penalty we could never afford and He gives us Life we could never buy.

- The quality of that Life in our Lord Jesus Christ is "resurrection Life" ... "eternal Life" and listen to this:

The Lord Jesus Christ is not partial: He's calling you; wants you; loves you and if you acknowledge the sin of which He is speaking to you, He will **forgive you** and **save you** from not only the "penalty" of sin but the "power" over sin in the days and years to come. He will return to take you Home ...then to be "perfect" with Him **forever!**

Is this not what you long for?

He's offering this to you as a **gift**.

Jesus Christ is not deaf to your concerns whether those are selfish or real!

- He's not blind to your needs and knows how needy you are!

Talk with Him. Listen to Him. What will He say in response?

- Listen for His answer! Don't rush away. Be still.

Youi don't need to be religious or spiritual to talk with Him **REALLY!**

God, being fully aware of your weakness, ignorance and incompetency and all the other "imperfections" that you may see in your life and others,

- He's offering you *Life in abundance*.

- He's not discouraged nor disheartened because you can only be "*perfected*" **in and through Him! He KNOWS that!**

- He *will wait for you*.

As much as you may try, God's gifts are free.

This is that one gift you need to take hold of and enjoy the rest of your life!

- If you hunger and thirst for the reality of His His work in your life....

- ***you will be satisfied!***

GOD IS FOR YOU!

This is His word for you and
The Word Speaks!