

Lord, You Are My Adequacy in All Things!

Key Scripture:

“And we have such trust [reliance & confidence] through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate [fit, qualified and sufficient in ability] of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our adequacy [sufficiency, power and ability] is from God, who also made us adequate [qualified us, making us fit, worthy and sufficient] as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NKJV, NASB, AMP)

Today's Portion for the Journey:

This passage has meant more to me than I can possibly express! I pray, that He will reveal His profound truth of this verse to you as you meditate on this Word! It is always important to read verses "in context" and this is especially true when understanding God's promises. Read this verse in context (2 Cor. 3:3-18). You will see that the context of this verse is what God does for us through the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. The LORD is writing His Truth on our hearts, not on tablets of stone. This is truly Good News because although we can never measure up to His standards in our flesh, He now promises to do it for us through the New Covenant that was secured through Jesus' death and resurrection. Our part of the New Covenant is to put our faith and trust in Him and let Him do the work that is required in our hearts!! Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, so as we seek His truth through the Word and believe by placing our faith in what He says, He will undertake all that concerns us! Even more He will allow His power and His grace to work through us to accomplish His purposes! Let's make it a practice when reading His Word to watch for those things He has promised to do and **believe that He will!**

Praying for Him to fulfill His promises: There is a principle in the Word, that when God makes a promise, it is *His part* to fulfill that promise and it is *our part* to **pray and believe** He will answer that prayer! We are not to be passive in our faith, but to take an active stance to watch Him fulfill His promises. Until He does we can continue to pray and ask Him... **not doubting that He will do it, but in faith, trusting Him that He will!** This is not "name it and claim it" theology, this is standing on the Word of the LORD to believe all that He has promised us through the covenant of Jesus Christ. As His children, He is calling us to live by faith in the truth of what He has said.

Digging Deeper in the Word:

1. Prayer Principle: When God makes a promise through His Word, it is our part to believe and pray for Him to fulfill His promise. Read Isaiah, chapters 61 and 62 as an example of this principle. Isa. 61 is a prophetic chapter describing the ministry of Jesus (see Luke 4:18-21). Note all of the promises God makes regarding His actions toward Israel. Isa. 62:1-12 shows Isaiah's response which takes the form of intercessory prayer to pray and keep on praying until he sees God's promises fulfilled. How did Isaiah respond to this word of promise? Would you describe Isaiah as exhibiting active or passive faith?

2. There are many examples of God giving a promise to complete a certain work, followed by His chosen ones praying intensely for that promise to be brought forth. Look up these examples, and note the heart attitude of those who prayed for a fulfillment of God's promises.

- David: 1 Chron. 17:6,23; 2 Sam. 7:25;
- Daniel: Jer. 25:11,12. Dan. 9:1,2;
- Elijah: 1 Kings 18, James 5:17,18. God promised to send rain, and Elijah prays 7x until it comes
- Isaiah: Isa. 57:17-19; 58:1.

3. **Our "part" in the LORD:** Turn to John 6:27-40, especially vs. 29. What is our "work" as believers of Jesus Christ? What will God do for us? How do you think "manna" applies to you in personal application to this message? (If you need to, go back and look at Exodus 16 or Numbers 11 for the account of the Israelite's manna in the wilderness.)

4. **How important is faith to our walk with the LORD?** Heb. 11:6

5. **In view of this call to walk by faith,** why does it displease the LORD when we say we are inadequate? Jer. 1:4-10; Ex. 3:10-12; Ex. 4:1-16

6. **God is our Adequacy:** "Yet in *all these things* we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37) Take time to read and reflect on each of the following verses. As you read these verses note how many times you see the concept of "in all things" or "always." Note how much of the promise is based on "God's part" and if there is anything He requires of us, as "our part."

If you find yourself struggling with faith to believe that He can or will change you, take some time to write out these verses and keep them with you in a handy location so you can review them throughout the day. It helps to personalize God's promises by putting your name in the context of the verse. I typed these verses and carried them in my Bible for many years after being called by the Lord to a ministry for which I felt very inadequate. They never ceased to give me faith to believe God would work through me, because of His power and ability, if I just trust Him.

Ex. 3:12; 2 Cor. 3:5, 14-17; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; 2 Cor. 13:4; Phil. 1:6-7, 9-11; Phil. 3:20-21; Luke 1:45; Ps. 138:8; Ps. 57:2; 1 Thes. 5:24; Rom. 8:28-29,37; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Peter 5:10; 1 Cor. 15:10; Ps. 138:8; 1 Cor. 1:8; Rom 4:21; 2 Tim 1:12; Isa 26:12; John 15:5, 16; Luke 1:37-38; Rom 8:28,37; 2 Cor. 3:14-18; 2 Cor. 12:10; 1 John 3:2-3; Acts 4:28; Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 2:14.

7. The account of the rich young ruler is a rich passage for meditation. This young man was seeking to know one good thing he could do to inherit heaven. Jesus used him to illustrate to his disciples how impossible it is to earn our salvation. The rich young ruler walked away sad. But Jesus instructed His disciples that with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. We are each given the choice to draw close to the LORD and allow Him to work in our hearts or to walk away sad, choosing to hold on to our fleshly efforts at salvation. Read and meditate on this passage: Matt 19:16-26 (AMP)

8. **"Be still, and know that I am God."** (Ps. 46:10) The Hebrew word that is translated "*be still*" or in the New American Standard versions, "*Cease striving*" is "rapha" which means to cease, abate, let go, stay and from which this same word we get the word for "heal, healer, to mend, to stitch, to make thoroughly whole." "Be Still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 [The word for "be still" is rapha, meaning to mend, heal, stitch, and make thoroughly whole. This is the same word that we have for "rapha" which means "healer." This is one of God's covenant names, "Jehovah Rapha." I have the clear picture of the LORD holding a little bird in His hand. In fear, the little bird struggles, his wings beating and in his efforts, he risks greater injury to itself. Only when the little bird is quiet and still in His hand can He apply the bandages or splint the broken wing, so that healing can take place. As long as we

struggle or are in fear, we cannot receive all that He wants to minister to us. Our ability to trust and be still and be healed comes from knowing that He is God. Our trust comes not only knowing Him as God, but knowing the character of our God, whose name is LOVE. How do you think our stillness or quietness before the LORD is related to His ability to heal us? How does it relate to knowing that He is our adequacy?

What is the Lord telling me?

Make a list of the things that the LORD has shown you through this lesson. Make a note of what He says He will do for you, and what you are to do in response.

My Response to the Lord

Let us pray together first, and then you may pray whatever else the LORD has put on your heart: Lord, I pray that You will open my eyes to fully understand this beautiful rest of faith that You are calling me to, where I can trust You to accomplish the things that You have called me to do. Show me where I have not believed that You will do the work that You have promised! I confess the sin of unbelief and ask Your forgiveness and cleansing from not believing Your ability to work in MY LIFE! Forgive me for trying to work on my own strength, and not trusting in Yours. I choose to believe that You will do what You have said You will do not just in the lives of others but to believe that it applies to me as well.

In Jesus Name, Amen