

Our Sufficiency

8-22-21

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

We are competent to minister because our sufficiency is from God. Sufficiency comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. As a minister of the New Covenant, we mediate the Spirit of the living God. This is the Spirit that writes the will of God on our hearts and enables obedience. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. The Spirit alive in us gives us life and also gives life to those around us. Our responsibility is to behold the Lord and the Holy Spirit continually transforms us into the image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

We all are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another by the Holy Spirit. Our sufficiency in Christ continues to grow day by day. Each day we grow in the surpassing power of God, our sufficiency.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

We are jars of clay. We need God. Do you ever think, “I am so weak, so insufficient, so incapable, etc.!” Great revelation you are. God uses weak jars of clay is to show HIS surpassing power. This is evidence that this surpassing power is not from us, but from God. As jars of clay we face the evil, bind world.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel!

Satan is blinding unbelievers. Their eyes are veiled, and they can't see. God's plan is to confront unbelievers with jars of clay, us. God lifts the veil to their blindness when we proclaim Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:14 (ESV)

Only through Christ is the veil taken away.

This is the only way things can change! We must rely on the Christ in us to gain our needed strength, our sufficiency.

2 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)

Do we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

We have an eternal home and God is continually empowering us to face this world. Plus, God is preparing us for eternity.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is “**preparing**” for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

God calls this light and momentary affliction. However, we say this is really difficult. Yet God says in comparison to all of eternity, this is nothing compared to what I have waiting for you. We are going through hard times and God says, “I love you and want you are going through is “to prepare you” for eternity. The treasures you are building in heaven will be beyond all comparison. **God is “preparing” us. The language indicates “proportion”. Our troubles here achieve proportional glory in eternity. Therefore, we have an eternal perspective.**

2 Corinthians 4:18 (ESV)

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

God must be our sufficiency. Life teaches that God is our efficiency. Our earthy life must center around Christ because this is our power and our witness and our eternal treasure.

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

There is salvation in no one else (but Jesus), for there is no other name (but Jesus) under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.