

## “Why am I not enough?”

In my prayer this morning I was praying for increase for NUMA. I know what we have is real—His love, His word, His presence. I prayed, “Lord, we need your miracles to show people you are with us, just like in the early church.” I *heard*, “I don’t want them to come for the miracles.” This was an answer that I didn’t expect. Then I remembered what Paige had heard Him speak, “Why am I not enough?”

Why isn’t He enough? Is it because our old nature is never satisfied or content to trust Him, His wisdom, love and His timing? Is it lack of humility or that we don’t want to submit? Is it because of heresy—“Name it, claim it!”—that promises riches and perfect health “according to our faith?” Heresy and discontent grieve me, how much more the

Lord? I will address these and relate some of what the Lord has taught me this week.

First, I want to take a minute just to praise Him that He is alive teaching me and working in me *presently*, just as He is in your life. Don’t we have a reason to rejoice that we have a present testimony of a present God—still working! If someone asks for a testimony, I don’t have to go back to the day I met Him, or the day He saved me though glorious, or the many other things, the little miracles He has done in my life. I can testify that He is as living and active in my life as He ever was. Just as His word is “living, active and powerful,” though I don’t always see it, and I don’t always like it when I do see it, I know He has a purpose, and I am learning to trust Him, *impatiently* :) Most of the time we want to testify (share) the success, the triumph. It is these great testimonies that bring God glory, right? This is true, but our struggles and His being with us through them are equally a testimony to His glory for His continuing grace, love, and faithfulness.

Before I address, “Why isn’t He enough,” My time with the Lord this morning went in several places in His Word. Those of us who struggle with unhealthy emotions, not give in to them, struggle against them, find ourselves harassed by them (demons love to torment). I am one of those. I hate sin, yet I do sin, then I proceed to hate myself even after repentance. This is exactly what those evil spirits want! I was comforted this morning by scriptures about Abraham and Sarah. Abraham lied out of fear for his life when He and Sarah went to live in foreign territory. He said she was his sister, a half-truth, so that he wouldn’t be killed since Sarah was beautiful, and someone would want her for a wife. You think he would have learned the first time that it wasn’t the best thing to do as the Pharaoh was very upset with him, but he did it again a second time. How did God deal with him? If he rebuked him, *I think He did*, it was through the words of the Pharaoh and then the words of a king, **but God had a covenant with Abraham. Abraham came out of each situation better than he went in.** God did not turn His back on Him or give up on Him. (The first time is recorded in Genesis 12:11-20, the second is in Genesis 20:2-17).



I recalled a scripture portion, **He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors and remembered his holy covenant—the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we, having been rescued from the hand of our enemies, would serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.** (Luke 1:72-75 CSB) Off I went to biblehub.com to check out the highlighted portion because I desire to know His presence solidly in my life.

The word, Strong's # 1722 *enopion* (*en=in, op=eye*) occurs 95 times in the New Testament. It can be translated as *before Him, in His presence, in the sight of*. Would we do a better job of controlling our mouths, our hearts and our spirits if we lived in the awareness of this truth—keeping him *in our sight*? The one we talk about or blame, would we do it in their presence? Probably not, but God sees, and He is more important than that one. All of the areas where our spirits are out of control, He sees. All of our injustices in business and in relationships, He sees. All of the things we should have done and didn't, He sees. Thank God His mercies are new every morning!

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Now, why isn't He enough? Is it because our old nature is never satisfied or content to trust Him, His wisdom, love and His timing?

It seems this was the case with the Israelites several times. So, is it because our old nature is never satisfied or content to trust Him, His wisdom, love and His timing? Most of the time the Israelites **blamed** Moses or God for every trying time in the wilderness. They complained and wanted what they had left in Egypt. They complained in the wilderness about a lack of water in Exodus 17:1-7:

**The entire Israelite community left the Wilderness of Sin, moving from one place to the next according to the Lord's command. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So the people complained to Moses, "Give us water to drink."**

**"Why are you complaining to me?" Moses replied to them. "Why are you testing the Lord?"**

**But the people thirsted there for water and grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us up from Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"**

**Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What should I do with these people? In a little while they will stone me!"**

**The Lord answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go. I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" (CSB)**

The portions I have highlighted show that Moses knew the Lord was the provider. The people, however, blamed their leader. We see them complaining again:

**Now the people began complaining openly before the Lord about hardship. When the Lord heard, his anger burned, and fire from the Lord blazed among them and consumed the outskirts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed**

to the Lord, and the fire died down. So that place was named Taberah, because the Lord's fire had blazed among them.

The riffraff among them had a strong craving for other food. The Israelites wept again and said, "Who will feed us meat? We remember the free fish we ate in Egypt, along with the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. But now our appetite is gone; there's nothing to look at but this manna!" (Numbers 11:4-6 CSB)

**Moses also complained** about the people being a burden to himself: **Moses heard the people, family after family, weeping at the entrance of their tents. The Lord was very angry; Moses was also provoked. So Moses asked the Lord, "Why have you brought such trouble on your servant? Why are you angry with me, and why do you burden me with all these people?"** (Numbers 11:10-11 CSB)

Blaming and complaining seem to be very human traits, nevertheless, they do anger the Lord, and make it difficult for leaders.

Why isn't He enough? **Is it lack of humility or that we don't want to submit?**

I can think of a couple places where people rebelled against God-appointed authority. In both cases the rebels thought they were justified, but the consequences were severe.

There was the rebellion of Korah in Numbers 16:1-50. Korah and 250+ people challenged Moses' authority and the right of Aaron's line serving as the priesthood because, they said all Israelites were holy, and they were Levites. The Levites had the honor of serving in the Lord's tabernacle and ministering to the community, but they wanted the priesthood which had been God-ordered. Jude 1:11 refers to this as a warning to those rejecting authority.

Another rebellion comes to mind, that of Miriam and Aaron against Moses, another God-appointed leader. They criticized Moses' choice of a Cushite wife, and questioned his sole authority. **They said, "Does the Lord speak only through Moses? Does he not also speak through us?" And the Lord heard it.** (Numbers 12:2 CSB)

Humility and submission are qualities of a spirit of self-control.

Why isn't He enough? **Is it because of heresy—"Name it, claim it!"—that promises riches and perfect health "according to our faith?"**

We grow old. We die. Facts! We might not like it, but facts don't change according to what we like or the falsehoods we believe.

**Therefore we do not become discouraged [spiritless, disappointed, or afraid]. Though our outer self is [progressively] wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day by day. For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]! So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are temporal [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable.** This is from the Amplified Bible. It is thorough. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) We need only to look at many faith healers to realize that even their great faith could not save them from death and sickness as many died prematurely. One even said, "I am just tired." Healing doesn't always manifest physically. Although the Lord healed all,

He is also the one who said, **“It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”** (From Luke 5:31-32 CSB) This indicates a health and wholeness that is spiritual rather than physical. All healing scriptures are not necessarily or only speaking about physical healing.

I think about faith that I cannot measure, but I believe is there of a man in ministry with no arms or legs, of a woman in ministry with paralysis. Maybe they just didn't speak to their obstacles enough!—Come on! Or, maybe God wants us to focus more on the eternal. If you are honest, I bet you can think of some people in your lives who had great faith, but also great suffering. Miracles still happen. The spoken word still has power and life. Jesus is still the one who heals whenever healing takes place. **Faith accounts for so much, but it will never take the place of sovereignty. Faith will never dictate a timeframe to God.** “Faith is the substance of things hoped for,” the Bible makes it clear. It also makes clear that hope is for that which *we do not have* as yet. **Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.** (Romans 8:23-25 CSB)

I know I cannot argue anyone out of believed heresy. I wish I could.

The Bible also indicates that **lack of faith can be** the cause of not receiving. James speaks of this as double mindedness.

The Bible says many are sick and die among us because we don't discern or honor the Lord's body while being unworthy in communion when believers came together. (See 1 Corinthians 11:30). We see Paul with a “thorn in his side—a messenger of satan.” Also, Paul left his companion, a fellow worker for the kingdom, sick at Miletus. (2 Timothy 4:20) I guess He didn't have enough faith! Job 14:1 says life is short and full of trouble for humans. Psalms many times have the authors crying out for help in their distress. Every healing prophet or apostle had struggles, discomforts, persecutions, and sometimes, even hardships as they *faithfully* obeyed God, much more faithfully than we who complain and are never satisfied. So should we be so selective of the verses we stand on, or should we realize the whole of the scripture is the Word of Christ?

**Wisdom!**—Keep your eyes on the sovereign God who sees. He is for us. He is with us. He isn't on our timetable. We don't go through anything without Him. Embrace the whole word of God. Read it in context. Be blessed!