



Life Principles Notes™

Inadequacy: A Barrier or a Blessing?

Summary:

We have all felt inadequate at some time. As a matter of fact, there is no time in life when we won't feel inadequate in some area. These feelings are painful and uncomfortable. We can feel inadequate in our work or in our relationships.

These emotions are so common that we need to ask some important questions about them: Are these feelings of inadequacy completely negative,

or is there something good about them? Is it possible to be happy while feeling this way?

Paul wrote, "Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God" (2 Corinthians 3:5). Only as followers of Christ can we find the true meaning of adequacy.

Key Passage: [2 Corinthians 3:1-6](#)

Supporting Scripture: *Acts 1:8.*

Scriptural Principles:

1 Feelings of inadequacy can be a barrier or a blessing in your life.

When we feel inadequate, the greatest danger is that these feelings will discourage us in such a way that we will fail to know and experience God's best in our lives. One of the greatest reasons that many people fail to walk in God's will is that they suffer from feelings of unworthiness.

2 Feelings of inadequacy become a barrier because of their results.

We live in fear of failure. We harbor fears that we will not measure up to the expectations of other people. We also experience feelings of being unqualified when asked to serve. Some people use inadequacy as an excuse to escape personal involvement or responsibility. They may even use it to avoid doing the will of God. What are the results of all these experiences? They deprive us of joy, peace and contentment in life. These inadequacies deprive us of loving relationships, because we fail to give our best to others. Finally, these feelings can also keep us from God-given opportunities to impact people with the Gospel.

3 Feelings of inadequacy drive us to God.

These feelings actually become blessings to us by driving us toward God. We pray more, we seek His Word, and we learn to trust and depend upon Him more deeply. This is how He builds a sense of godly adequacy in us. Whatever He calls us to do, we find we are able to do it by relying upon Him.

4 Feelings of inadequacy relieve us of trying to serve God in our own strength.

God doesn't intend for us to depend on our own strength, but on His. When we recognize that we are inadequate to meet our own needs, we find based upon God's truth, that we are relieved of the burden of having our own strength and wisdom. We experience the freedom to simply trust in Him to provide all that we need, and then inadequacy becomes a blessing to us.

5 Feelings of inadequacy motivate us to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples watched Jesus teach and heal for three years. At the end of that time, He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit to empower them. (Acts 1:8) Every single believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and realizing our inadequacy helps us in seeing just how adequate the Spirit of God is to perform every task that God wants us to accomplish. He wants us to live every single day of our lives in complete dependence upon His Spirit for energy, wisdom, and knowledge.

6 Feelings of inadequacy show us what great things God can do with so little.

When Moses heard God speaking from a burning bush, he complained that he lacked the talent to obey God. Gideon and David expressed the same feelings of unworthiness. You have surely felt that same lack of confidence. God has performed His greatest miracles through the most ordinary of servants. The Lord has a wonderful plan for you that is as unique as your thumbprint and designed to benefit you. He has given you an awesome opportunity to do great things from your inadequacy, rather than through your own strength.

7 Feelings of inadequacy free God to use us to our greatest potential.

Those who are puffed up with self-confidence will never reach their true potential because they will attempt everything from their own base of strength and talent. It is only when we feel weak and inadequate in ourselves that we realize the extent to which we must trust God to experience success. We need to acknowledge our inadequacy before God, and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit and use us in whatever way He wishes. This enables us to enjoy the greatest success possible, because there is nothing that He cannot do.

8 Feelings of inadequacy allow God to receive all the glory due Him.

As we act in obedience to God, and serve Him while acknowledging our own weakness, we are giving Him all the glory. We are unlikely to take any credit for our achievements when we recognize our inadequacy. Instead, we humbly admit that no worthy accomplishment could come through our own strength, but only through His unlimited power. In this way people see His work rather than ours, and He receives all the praise and honor. We should never use our inadequacy as an excuse, but follow Him obediently and rely upon His power.

9 Feelings of inadequacy enable us to experience peace.

One of the greatest blessings of inadequacy is the way it gives us the wonderful capacity to walk in joy and tranquility. Why? It is because we approach every situation with the understanding of our own weakness and God's unlimited power. We know that He will provide us all that we need to walk in His perfect will. Humility with obedience allows us to live with the quiet joy of knowing that He is using us every single day to do His wonderful work in this world.

Conclusion:

Our God takes great delight in proving His faithfulness to you. Do you want to experience the awesome blessing of relying completely upon God's adequacy? First, acknowledge that you personally lack the ability to do what He is calling you to do. Second, affirm that you are placing your complete trust in Him and that He will be true to His Word. Third, take advantage of the opportunity to glorify God by demonstrating His complete adequacy as you rely upon Him.

As you begin to trust in Him, you will begin to witness situations that allow you to experience His work. You will see His results. You will experience the complete sufficiency of Jesus Christ who promised to give us all that we need whenever we need it. Then you will discover the joy of being a child of God, fully dependent on a Father who will never fail us. ✝

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