

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, April 17, 2011
You Are Qualified

“Do I have what it takes?” It’s a question we ask ourselves in so many areas of our lives. It comes to mind when we’re looking for a job or a spouse, on the eve of being a parent, and even facing the world as a Christian. While the list can go on and on, the answer is found in Christ. The Apostle Paul, writing from prison where he had plenty of time to think, told the Philippians that he found the secret of contentment. ***“I can do all things from him who gives me strength.”*** This apostle wrote a major part of the New Testament where his theme of life in Christ permeated every book.

When fears creep in to try to hinder us from being the kind of Christians we read about because we think we can’t do the things that are mentioned, we need to pause and take seriously the message Paul brought. **We are qualified!** We don’t lack a single thing. If you’ve asked Jesus into your heart, then you’ve been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. There aren’t any more than “every!” Paul tells us in Colossians 1 verse 6 that all over the world the gospel is bearing fruit and growing. Then he adds, *“just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.”* Understanding God’s grace is key. When we think that God has given us commands that he expects us to do in our own power we are destined for failure. We can’t do it and neither could Paul. He recognized that it was Christ working in and through him. **Ephesians 3:7-9** *“I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.”* Notice that he didn’t take credit for the ability he had. He gives the same message in **1 Corinthians 15:10** *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”* He tells Timothy in his 1st letter to him *“¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”* All of it was a gift!

1 John 5:4 *“for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”* **Romans 8:37** *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* We are not just conquerors. We are **more than conquerors!** **Colossians 2:8-10** *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.*

I had an incredible dream a few days ago. In my dream I had been ministering to someone and I knew it was Christ in me doing his work. I could feel it and expressed to the person. The next thing I knew I walked into a room and Jesus was there. I was blown away. It was him! Then I told him about my ministry to this person and I told him, “I was ministering like I was you.” Isn’t that what he prayed for? That we would be one with him like he is one with the Father. He wants us to expect that he is right there with us in the power of the Holy Spirit, giving us the words to say, as well as the ability to do what he did and more.

Let’s expect the living God to work in us and through us. Let’s take risks, stepping out of our comfort zones and expect Christ, who is our life, to do his work through us. It won’t happen without our participation and we won’t participate unless we truly believe that this is the Word of the Lord. Exciting days are here right now. Believe it and step out in faith. Divine appointments and opportunities to shine for him are coming our way. Look for them and cooperate with the Lord to enter into the excitement of living in and advancing the Kingdom!