

SUFFICIENCY

“Pastor, I get the impression that I’m not sufficient enough to succeed in life. How can I change this?” It sounds to me like you feel inadequate. In an article on “How to Stop Feeling Like Your Life Isn’t Good Enough” (WikiHow), the various writers came to this conclusion... “In recent times, it seems there are only three measures of success: Money, Looks, and Fame. If you don’t have one or all of them, you feel like things aren’t good enough, and perhaps you feel unlucky and cheated.” As Christians we should not fall into this trap. Why? Because our sufficiency is from God! 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 says, ***“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant.”*** Note, the word that the apostle Paul repeats three times is the word “sufficient.” This Greek word can also be translated “to render fit, to make able, to be more than adequate, to equip one with adequate power to perform.”

Let’s now read the same scripture with some of these words inserted... *“Not that we are ourselves ‘rendered fit’ to think anything as being from ourselves, but our ‘ability and power to perform’ is from God, who also made us ‘fit and able’ as ministers of the new covenant.”* Observe, the Lord is not only all-sufficient in and of Himself, but He is also able to make us all-sufficient in all things. 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 declares, ***“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”*** We ourselves certainly are not fully equipped and adequately powerful in ourselves. However, the Lord our God is! And we are to find all our sufficiency in Him, and Him alone. Then, when our sufficiency is truly in the Lord, His all-sufficient grace equips us with adequate power to perform all our God-given assignments. Yes, we become ‘all-sufficient’ ministers in all things. So let us therefore lean not upon our own sufficiency. Let us rather learn to set all our focus and faith upon our Lord Jesus Christ. With Him we can never feel inadequate, not good enough or cheated!

On a practical level, the article in WikiHow gave some very good pointers. Here are three of them:

- **Cultivate a Grateful Heart:** Gratitude is the one thing that most people who feel a low sense of self-worth lack. If you can look outside your own world, and see how good you really have it, then you will feel much more like your life is a worthwhile thing.
- **Be Humble:** Of course if you go around bragging about how amazing you are, people are going to try to knock you down. Plus, people who boast about themselves to others are usually covering up an internal feeling of inadequacy.
- **Help Others:** There is nothing that will make you feel like you are valued, needed, and essential like volunteering to help and serve others who are less fortunate than you.

Remember, God is able to equip you with adequate power and ability (in all things) that you may abound in every good work!