

Competence

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5, 9:8
Acts 4:13

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Introduction

Jesus picked a group of incompetent and incapable men. The raw material didn't seem to possess much potential. But when He was finished with them, they took the world by storm. Their affiliation with Him had made them competent.

I. Learning the source of competency

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God**,

A. The power of His name

Luke 10:17 (NKJV) Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, **even the demons are subject to us in Your name.**"

Philippians 2:10-11 (NKJV) that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 4:12 (NKJV) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

B. Learning our own inadequacy

John 15:5 (NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**"

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

C. Becoming dependent upon Him

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

II. Spending time with Him to become competent

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that **they had been with Jesus.**

A. He is the environment of our success

Acts 17:28a (NKJV) **"for in Him we live and move and have our being,"**

Colossians 1:17-18 (NKJV) And **He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Joel 2:27 (NKJV) Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

B. Knowing Him gives strength and ability

Daniel 11:32 (NKJV) "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; **but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**"

C. He sets the boundaries of our success

2 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NKJV) For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but **within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us**; a sphere which especially includes you.

III. Walking competently through Him

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV) And God is able to make **all grace** abound toward you, that you, always having **all sufficiency in all things**, may have an abundance for **every good work.**

A. Do not trust yourself

Romans 7:15, 18-19 (NKJV) For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

B. Walk only in the path He has chosen for you

Isaiah 30:21 (NKJV) Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "**This is the way, walk in it,**" Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

C. Let Him equip you and teach you

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John 14:26 (NKJV) "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, ***He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.***