

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Adequate for the Job

### Introduction

There comes a time in our lives as we grow up that we have to get a job. If you are like me when I started looking for a job and possibly a career, I applied for many jobs for which I was not qualified. I didn't have the adequate training or education to fulfill the job's requirements but I thought I would be able to learn as I worked. I did convince an employer to hire me for a job for which I was not adequately qualified. As soon as I went to work I strove to educate myself and train myself to do the job without the employer realizing that I wasn't really qualified. I actually was able to do it and became very successful in that job. That gave me confidence to tackle other jobs in the future for which I was only marginally adequate to perform. However, through experience and education I was able to pull it off.

I said all of that to emphasize the fact that our human nature thinks that we can become adequate in anything which we set as our goal. This is simply not true when it comes to spiritual matters even though we have been conditioned to believe it to be so.

### Made Adequate

We have applied the same natural methods of education and training in religious matters as we have in secular pursuits. However, Paul tells us why this won't work.

#### 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 NASB

(5) Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, (6) who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Nothing that we have done in the natural, not our education nor our training, makes us adequate to do the job, the work, that the Lord has called us to do. Our adequacy must come from Him and that adequacy is of the Spirit. This is the only thing that makes us capable to do the work as servants of the new covenant.

Consider the choices that Jesus made for His disciples. Jesus understood that His choices were crucial to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Father. The old covenant was about to be made

obsolete by its fulfillment and a new covenant was about to be established by God. The disciples would become the apostles to continue the work of the Lord and the establishment of the Church. While there were many well educated and religiously trained people available, Jesus chose ignorant and unlearned fishermen. Later in Acts when the Pharisees observed the ministry of Peter and John they were amazed because it was being done by uneducated and untrained men.

#### Acts 4:13 NASB

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Why were uneducated and untrained men chosen by the Lord to do so important a work? Because the ministry is from the Spirit and not from the natural man. A servant of the new covenant is made adequate in the Spirit, which is the only way that Life can be ministered. A servant of the old covenant ministers the letter of the Law, which requires education and training in order to comprehend and apply it.

Our natural man, the old man, is perfectly acceptable to religion to minister all that can be comprehended by the mind. It always results in legalism and application of the law. However, our old man with its Adamic genealogy is NOT adequate to minister the new covenant of life. The ministry of life requires a new creation born of the seed of God. A servant of the new covenant is made adequate or capable in the Spirit. It is necessary that all new testament ministry come from the new man with the nature of Christ and not the old man with the nature of Adam.

## Doing the Work

This should give us great hope and tremendous confidence in our performing the work of the Lord. The attributes of the our old man are irrelevant to the fulfillment of God's purpose for us.

It doesn't matter whether we are educated or uneducated.

It doesn't matter whether we have been religiously trained or not.

It doesn't matter whether or not we went to Seminary.

It doesn't matter whether or not we can speak well before crowds or not.

The ONLY THING THAT MATTERS is whether or not we have become a new creation.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. [2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB](#)

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. [1 Peter 1:23 NASB](#)

and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. [Ephesians 4:24 NASB](#)

But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. [Romans 7:6 NASB](#)

The new creation in us is born of the imperishable seed of God through the living Word. This

new self has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth in the likeness of God. The new self is who we are NOW, not sons of Adam but sons of God. The new self is released from the Law because the old Adamic self died on the cross with Jesus. Our new self serves in the newness of the Spirit.

If our old man ministers to others it is the natural man ministering to the natural man. This is always done through mental processes and intellectual comprehension based on reasoning and logic derived from our traditions and cultural overlays. The end result is that no life is ministered only death and legalism.

If our new man ministers to others it is the new self ministering to the new creation in others. This is the spirit receiving from God and presenting life in words taught by the Spirit combining spiritual thought with spiritual words.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1 Corinthians 2:12-14 NASB)

Ministering life doesn't require education or training. It simply requires us to “walk in the Spirit” and do as the spirit leads. That is exactly what our uneducated and unlearned Apostles did in the first century.

## Growing Up

It is God's intention that our new self matures as His son. Maturing is a process and takes time. It is mature sons that participate in the plans and purposes of the Father. Maturing affects our thinking process and our emotional responses. In other words, a major portion of our growing up is the process of renewing our mind, which includes the laying aside of our old self and living in our new self

The difference between a child and an adult is the *way* they think, how information is processed, and the *way* in which they react emotionally. The renewing the mind process changes the way we think and the way that our emotions respond.

Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. 1 Corinthians 14:20 NASB

Before we know the Lord, we have a *heathen* mind, our thinking process is heathen and operates completely from the old self. When we are born again, we receive a new spirit but we still have our heathen thinking processes. We have a *carnal* mind because our inner mental process operates at the direction of the flesh, our old self, rather than the spirit, our new self. The renewing the mind process moves us from a carnal mind toward a renewed *spiritual* mind so that we can come into the *corporate mind* of Christ. This is the essence of growing up.

There is nothing wrong with being a child when you are a child. But, it is wrong for us to remain as children. We are to mature in the Lord.

When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child;

when I became a man, I did away with childish things. [1 Corinthians 13:11 NASB](#)

A child reasons like a child; his thinking process is like that of a child; he talks like a child, he acts like a child. All because he *is* a child. But, Paul says, when we mature we put away childish things; that is, thinking, reasoning, talking and acting like a child.

The bulk if not all of the Institutional Church is made up of children who are playing “dress-up”, pretending or playacting as adults. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:3-4 that while there is jealousy, strife, divisions among us, we are still carnal, fleshly; this is, we are acting like children. One says I follow this teacher, another says I follow that teacher—what do we think our denominations are but the result of this same thinking process?

The Lord has given us all that we need to mature. He has made us adequate for His purpose. He sent us the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit and He provided equipping gifts to His people

And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, [\(12\) for](#) the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; [Ephesians 4:11-12 NASB](#)

The goal is to bring our new self to maturity. The Holy Spirit works on us individually to renew our minds and conform us to the image of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a gift of the Father; but, the Lord has given us the five fold ministry as His gifts to bring us to maturity. They work on us corporately to move us toward the expected result of maturity.

[Ephesians 4:14 NASB](#)

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

The expected result is that **we are no longer to be children**. The work is to go on until we all grow up, individually and corporately.

until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

[Ephesians 4:13 NASB](#)

Notice that the maturing process continues with the help of the five fold ministry until all of us attain to maturity which is determined by the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. This means that our inner man must mature into the fullness of Christ.

We cannot become content with an arrested spiritual development. Christ has laid hold of us. He has a purpose for us. He has apportioned work for us. The work cannot be done by children, only by mature sons. We press on so that we can lay hold of that which Christ has apportioned to us.

Again, the verses with which I started this Teaching Letter

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. [\(2 Corinthians 3:5-6 NASB\)](#)

[For more on this subject matter see:

Lesson 5 of the Inner Man Series, [Growth of the Inner Man](#),  
see also the audio series, [Renewing the Mind](#).]

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