Feeling Inadequate 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

1 Corinthians 2:1-3 (MSG)

¹You'll remember, friends, that when I first came to you to let you in on God's master stroke, I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy.² I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified. ³ I was unsure of how to go about this, and felt totally inadequate-I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it...

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹And 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. Moses Gideon Solomon Saul Jeremiah Peter Paul

All had feelings of inadequacy.

1. A Common Confession

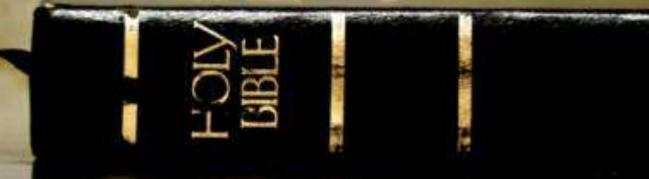
Inside influencers...

.'m GOOD ENOUGH

1. We feel guilty about our past failures.

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2. We don't really believe what the Bible has to say about us and the God we serve. Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



 We feel guilty about our past failures.
 We don't really believe what the Bible has to say about us and the God we serve.

3. We need to know more about God

"Who am I"

Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

"I'm not important enough"

Judges 6:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵Gideon said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house."

Saul felt small

1 Samuel 10:22 (TLB)

²²So they asked the Lord, "Where is he? Is he here among us?" And the Lord replied, "He is hiding in the baggage."

Solomon said, "but, I'm just a child, I don't know how to go in or come out"(1 Ki 3:7); Jeremiah said "I don't know how to preach" (Jer 1:6) Paul said, I'm not even fit to be called an apostle (1 Cor. 15:9)

Jeremiah 1:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I *am* a youth."

1 Corinthians 15:9 (NKJV) ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

"I'm not important enough"

Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

"What shall I say?"

Exodus 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say?"

"They will not listen to me"

Exodus 4:1 (NKJV)

¹Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' "

"I am not a good speaker"

Exodus 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue."

"Please send someone else"

Exodus 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send."

GOD'S RESONSE

Exodus 4:12 (NKJV) ¹²Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."



Sercoming Feelings

Remember the facts of Christian History

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) ⁵For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."



Sercoming Feelings

Remember the promises of God

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) ⁵For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Outside influencers...

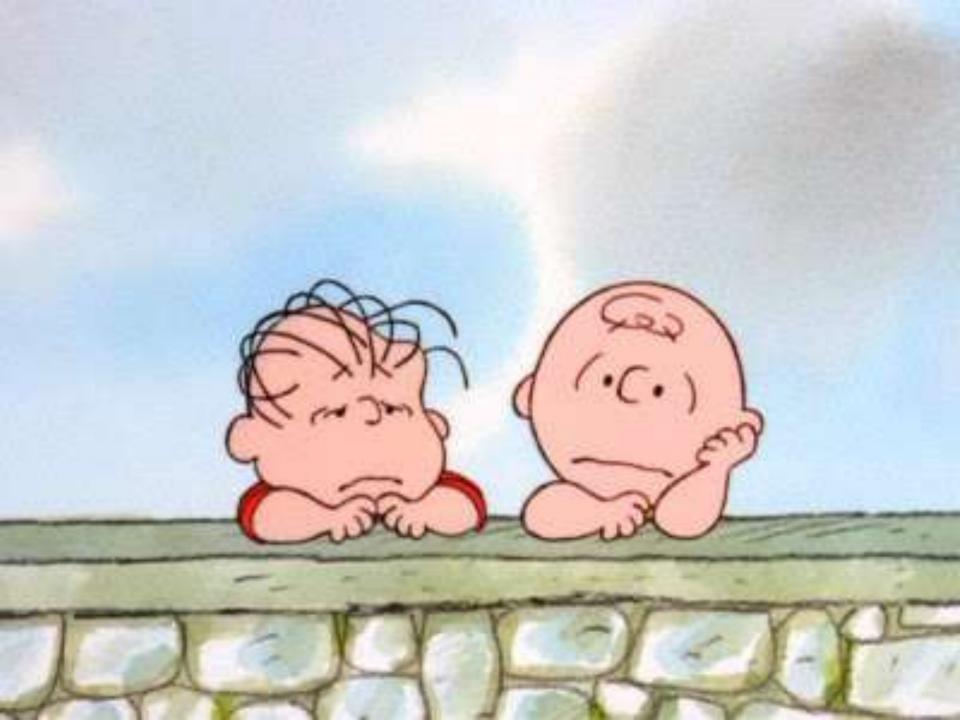
YOU ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH





Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865

One of many great people in American history who struggled with feelings of inadequacy



"Not right for the part"

We listen to those outside influencers

II. An Uncommon Consideration Inadequate is different from incompetent

Romans 3:23 (KJV) ²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (HCSB) ⁴We have this kind of confidence toward God through Christ. ⁵ |It is | not that we are competent in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our competence is from God. ⁶ He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit produces life.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - We are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in us.

Let His Holy Spirit fill you!

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV) ⁶ 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 (NKJV) ¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

Philippians 2:7 (KJV)
⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

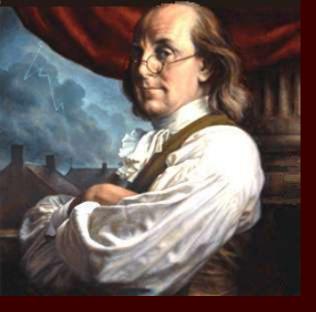
Colossians 1:20 (KJV) having made peace throu

²⁰And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

Christ e<u>mptied</u> himself, and Paul considered himself n<u>othing</u>. ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. **1 Corinthians 2:3 (NKJV)** ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for <u>My strength is made perfect in</u> <u>weakness</u>." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.



"We are all born ignorant, But one must work hard To remain stupid."

III. What We Hold In Common The Way to Overcome!

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* We Hold the <u>Holy Spirit</u> in the Temple of our Bodies (Rom 8:-11; 1 Cor 3:16)

Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 Jo. 4:4).

*Where sin abounds <u>grace</u> doth much more abound (Romans 5). III. What We Hold In Common The Way to Overcome! *We Hold the Hope, the Truth, the Testimony of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:6).

*We Hold the K<u>eys</u> to the Kingdom of God (Mat 16:19).

What to Remember When I'm



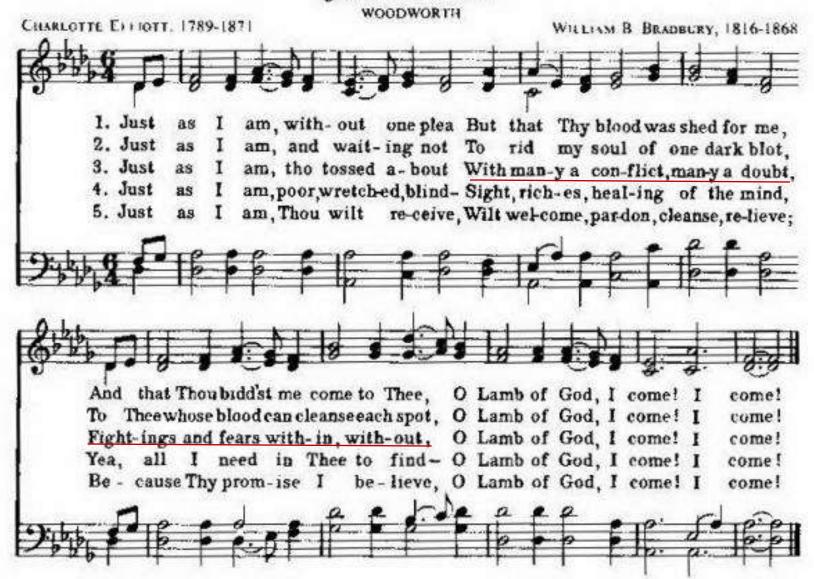


My Inadequacy

nadequa

greater than

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? **You are a child of God.** Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. Just As I Am



Author-Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871