

Am I adequate, sufficient? To do what? Manage my life?

The truth: No, I'm not adequate. The lie: The deception of thinking that I am or should be:

2 Thess 2:10 ...**They did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

What is the truth about how we all live without God, according to His word which is truth?

Eph 2:2 **You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan...**
NLT **He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.**

3 **Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the**
ESV **desires of the body and the mind and were by nature children of wrath (Satan)**

This means that none of us are, in and of ourselves, adequate. But a person could say: Surely I can do some things capably, and have a degree of success? True, for example: Men, generally speaking, there are exceptions, are naturally skilled in practical things and fixing practical problems. But men tend to lack people skills, and are likely to be loners with few real friends. Women, generally speaking, there are exceptions, are naturally skilled with people, will likely have friends, but are less equipped to solve practical things.

Unfortunately, men may put women down for their shortcomings in practical things, and women may put men down for their shortcomings in people skills. Which one is more important? Sometimes one sometimes the other. Shouldn't we learn from each other? But regardless of our natural abilities in these basic skill sets, neither will produce a happy, fruitful, satisfying life. Why? We were not designed to find sufficiency in ourselves.

Jer 10:23 **O LORD....It is not in a person who lives to direct their own steps.**

Ps 37:23 **The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD...** NLT

2 Cor 3:5-6 **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, Who makes us sufficient...**

Where will we find true adequacy or sufficiency? We will never find it in ourselves; we will only find it in Christ. Meaning, we have let God teach us how to live with our spirits full of and in constant submission to His Holy Spirit. When we look away from God to ourselves we will quickly be aware of inadequacy, especially if we've been put down by another. But being the great actors that we all are, we will try to conceal that inadequacy, but its there.

John 15:5 (Jesus) **...For without Me you can do nothing** (or adequately live your life).

Phil 4:13 **I can do all things in and by Christ who strengthens me** (with His life).

Ps 144:15 **...Happy are the people whose God is the LORD** (are not their own gods)

Only in and by Jesus Christ do men improve in their people skills and even further excel in practical things. Women become wiser in practical things and further excel with people. God will impart his skillful nature into men through woman and into women through men, including husbands and wives, and neither will put down the other for not measuring up.

2 Co 10:12 **...But they measuring themselves with themselves...are not wise.**

1 Jo 3:21 **...if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.**

Andrew Murray Devotional – January 20 Intercession

Praying always...in the Spirit...with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.—Ephesians 6:18

What an unspeakable blessing there is in intercession! That one should pray down heavenly gifts on himself is a wonder of grace, but that he should bring down blessings on others is indeed an inconceivable honor. But God makes the pouring out of blessing on others dependent on our prayers. Indeed, He makes us His fellow workers. He has taken us into partnership in His work; if we fail in doing our part, others will suffer, and His work will suffer unspeakable loss.

God has appointed intercession as one of the means by which souls are saved, and by which saints and ministers of the Gospel are built up in the faith. Even the ends of the earth will receive life and blessing through our prayers. Should we not expect God's children to strive joyfully and with all their powers, by means of intercession, to bring down blessing on the world?

Christian, begin to use intercession as a means of grace for yourself and for others. Pray for your neighbors. Pray for souls with the definite desire that they may be won for Christ. Pray for your minister, for all ministers and missionaries. Pray for your country and its people. Pray for all men. If you surrender yourself to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and live a life wholly for God, you will realize that the time spent in prayer is an offering well pleasing to God, bringing blessing to yourself and power into the lives of those for whom you pray.

Yes, pray “always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (verse 18). In so doing, you will learn the lesson that intercession is the chief means of winning souls and of bringing glory to God.