

## Perfectly Insufficient



Over my sink, I have a print that hung in my great-grandmother's bedroom for decades. It reads, "My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

I've spent the past week contemplating insufficiency. Namely, my own. Life adds up. It adds up and up and up, until the sum is more than we think we can manage. That was the sort of week I had. It doesn't really matter what were the parts of that sum. We've all had those weeks, or months, or years, when we can't keep up. When we can't do enough, or do enough well. When our insufficiency is there for all to see under a glaring spotlight.

Before we grow too downhearted over this reality, let us notice something else that ends up in that same spotlight: God's sufficiency.

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."  
(2 Corinthians 12:9)*

We were designed to be insufficient. We were designed to need God.

Inside of you is a bucket. This bucket holds what you need to at any given moment: courage, resiliency, patience, good humor, charity, wisdom... You name it, your bucket can hold it. Its contents change and alter according to your needs. When you take care of yourself – physically, mentally, and spiritually – you keep the bucket full, and you have a ready supply of what you need when you need it. Still, the bucket has a bottom. It can run low, or even empty. We've all experienced it.

In the moment of limitation, when you dip into your bucket and only touch bottom, that is where God is present to "supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Unlike ours, His bucket is limitless. His supply does not run low, much less empty. God invites us to dip into His graces in every instance where we come up short ourselves. He meets the immediate need and, if asked, He fills your empty bucket for times to come.

God is, indeed, sufficient for us all.

*Carrie Sue Barnes*

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