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## SUFFICIENT IN HIM

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Shad Williams Evangelistic Association/  
Global Field Evangelism

I have often heard even very devout Christians make statements like these, "I can't do this, I just don't have the strength." "I can't handle this grief." "I don't have the power to resist this temptation." "I can't deal with this loss." "I can't hold out long enough to heal this relationship." "I can't go on any longer; these circumstances are too much for me."

The first thing that is wrong with all those statements is where they begin - with self. The second thing that is wrong with them is that they express a lie from satan - "I can't." Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." His life had certainly proven that to be the case. But, from where did the strengthening come? It came from Jesus, as Paul leaned upon Him by faith. Dear friend, have you ever made a similar statement to those above? Sure you have. We all have. But, it is not necessary. All the power and enabling of God is at our disposal, in every situation in life. All we have to do is make the deliberate choice of faith and access it. In our own strength we cannot, but in His we can.

The word "strengthen" in Phil. 4:19 is made up of a combination of two Greek words, "en" and "dunamis", from which we get the word dynamite. One of the meanings of the word en is "to be placed in a position". The word dunamis means power. The words combined (endunamoo) mean "to be enabled", "to be made strong", "to be empowered", "to be rendered strong", "to be placed in a position of strength". In each shade of meaning we see that there is an alternate force providing a power, a strength that we could not and would not have within our own self. That Force, of course, is Jesus. You could rightly read the verse this way, "I am sufficient for all of life's situations through Christ Who makes me sufficient." We are sufficient in HIS sufficiency. We are strong in HIS strength. We are empowered in HIS power.

In 1 Timothy 1:12 Paul wrote, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." In 2 Timothy 2:1, He instructed his son in the faith, "Thou, therefore, my son, be made strong in the

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*grace that is in Christ Jesus.*" Again in chapter 4, verse 17 Paul testified, "*Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear.*" In each instance it is obvious that Paul and Timothy are not operating in their own strength but in, and by, an enabling that is coming from another Power Source, the Lord Jesus Himself.

In Hebrews 11:33-34 we find ordinary men doing extraordinary exploits for God. They "...subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword... waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." But, how could it be possible for ordinary, weak men to do such things? There were two things that made it possible. The first is found in verse 33, "*Who through faith...*" The second is found in verse 34, "...out of weakness were made strong..." It was trusting in the empowering of God that enabled them and made them sufficient.

Satan's tactic is always to present us with impossible circumstances and then challenge us to meet them in our own strength, thus producing the delusion of defeat and discouragement. The problem is that in and of our selves, we have no strength. Our own intellect, emotions, decision-making power and physical resources will never be enough to get us through to the end. All of that may get us started, but it will not take us across the finish line. However, there is a mighty power that will - the enabling of the Lord Jesus. All we have to do is lift up our head and look to HIM. In so doing, the impossible becomes possible, "I can't" turns into "By His grace, I WILL" and finally into "Praise God, I have!"

So, how do we receive the enabling of Jesus? First, cease the futile struggle of self-effort. Just stop! Then follow the instructions Paul gave to Timothy, "...*be strong in the grace [supply] that is in Christ Jesus.*" Paul was not telling Timothy to make himself strong, but to to be made strong by the empowering outside Force of Jesus.

Jesus said, "He that is thirsty, let him come"; "He that is hungry, let him come." In other words, He that has a need, let him come. He that needs strength, enabling, empowerment, encouragement - let him COME! Dear Christian, do you need strength? Do you need enabling that you cannot find within yourself? Then come to the Enabler. Draw upon Him. Allow Him to *endunamoo* - place you in a position of strength.

Just pray now, "Lord Jesus, In this situation I trust You by faith, right now, to render me strong, to fill me with your inner strength and power. Enable me, Lord Jesus, by Your grace. Lord, I am sufficient in You!" Child of God, be encouraged; you are not alone and you are not powerless. Do not believe and do not confess satan's lie. Embrace the power of Jesus within you, and walk in His sufficiency.

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

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