



“YOU CAN DO IT!”

Introduction:

A. Oh How We All Feel Inadequate At Times:

1. You have been so excited for nine months of pregnancy to have a baby! All of a sudden you or your wife go into labor, the baby is born, and now you are handed your baby to feed, clean, and train! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
2. In school you have a class in which you feel totally confused and lost! You don't get the concepts; you feel TOTALLY OVERWHELMED! WHAT DO YOU DO?
3. You have not participated in a specific sport (basketball, baseball, or to run track or cross-country); perhaps you ran the hundred yard dash but you want to be in cross-country. Quickly you realize this is tough; you have not trained; you cannot keep up; you have few skills; you feel that it is impossible for you! WHAT DO YOU DO?
4. You start a new job; so much information is thrown at you so quickly; you feel TOTALLY OVERWHELMED! WHAT DO YOU DO?

B. If We Pause, Take A Deep Breath, And Ask For Help, You Likely Can Realize That You CAN DO IT!

1. With a new baby -- ask parents, doctors and others for answers! Most of the time babies are crying if they are hungry, have a tummy ache, or are tired. All new parents have come to realize they CAN care for a child.
2. In school, do not try to do it all yourself! Ask your teachers for assistance; get a tutor. Try to get someone who can break down the topic and help it make sense to you! You may come to realize that you CAN understand and be successful!
3. In sports, you are not going to be an immediate star; you are not going to be able to keep up with those who have participated for a long time! Build up stamina; develop skills; practice, practice, practice. You may never be a star; however, you will build up stamina and skills. You CAN do it!
4. In a new job, patience and focus may help you learn the skills and be a successful employee!

- C. Spiritually God's People Often Struggle With Inadequacy!
1. When God Called Moses, He Felt SO Inadequate And Unworthy!
 - a. Ex. 3:11 "But 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?'"
 1. Why did you ask ME?
 2. You want ME to talk to PHARAOH.
 3. I am not a military man!
 - b. Ex. 3:13 "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 to them?'"
 1. What am I going to say to my brethren, Israel?
 2. When they ask, "Who told YOU to become our leader?" what will I say?
 - c. Ex. 4:1 "Then 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.''"
 1. What if my brethren won't believe me?
 2. What if the Egyptians don't believe me?
 3. God made the rod turn into a serpent and vice versa; he also could put his hand in his bosom and it became leprous and vice versa.
 - d. Ex. 4:10 "Then 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.'"
1. Moses feels SO inadequate; he feels that he does not have the skills to be effective in this role.
 2. God was aggravated with Moses' excuses; He told Moses, "So the LORD said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD?¹²Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.'" 11,12
 3. Moses said, "Send someone else!" 13
 4. God said, "Your brother Aaron will be your spokesman!" 14-16
2. Saul felt inadequate to be the first King of Israel. I Sa. 9:21 "And Saul answered and said, '*Am* I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?'"
 3. Solomon became the king as a young man; he had none of the military and organizational skills that his father, David, had developed throughout his life. Realizing his need for God, he wisely asked for wisdom. I Ki. 3:7-9; 4:29,30

- D. With God's Power And Promised, YOU Can Be Successful Spiritually Too!

- E. Today We Examine Some Examples Where People Struggle With The Feeling "I Am Not Sure I Can Do It!"

- F. (Slide #2) Before We Begin: Some Magnificent Traits Of God: **(God Is SO Good! How Great Thou Art!)**
 - 1. Their AMAZING Love!
 - a. I Jn. 4:8 "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."
 - b. Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 - c. Their TOTAL COMMITMENT to man!
 - 1. Jesus -- Leaving Heaven; CRUEL, CRUEL Death!
 - 2. The Spirit -- Revealing Their Will to us!

 - 2. Their ABUNDANT Grace!
 - a. Paul knew all about it! "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." I Tim. 1:14
 - b. "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," I Pet. 1:3

 - 3. Their PRECIOUS Message!
 - a. Glad tidings!
 - 1. Lk. 1:19 "And the angel answered and said to him, 'I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.'"
 - 2. Lk. 2:10 "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.'"
 - b. Glory of Message:
 - 1. "Gospel" -- Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
 - 2. It truly is the "BEST News!"

 - 4. Their Holiness!
 - a. Mary knew that! Lk. 1:49 "For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy *is* His name."
 - b. Praise in Heaven! "*The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!'" Rev. 4:8

5. Their Righteousness!
 - a. Ps. 145:17 “The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.”
 - b. Ac. 17:31 “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

I. (Slide #3) You CAN Become A Christian!

- A. I Have Seen Many Who Know What To Do To Become A Christian Struggle With The Question, “Can I Do It?” They Often Say, “I Am Not Sure That I Can Live The Life God Expects Me To Live!

- B. It Is About You Realizing Your Sin, Your Need For A Savior, And Coming To Faith In Christ That Leads You To Submit To Him!
 1. If you viewed anyone as “un-saveable” it might be the crucifiers of Jesus!
 - a. They finally realized the error of their ways!
 - b. Ac. 2:36,37 ““Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’
³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’”
 - c. 3,000 became penitent, obedient believers that day!
 2. Paul knew all about feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness before God!
 - a. Can you imagine how fearful and unworthy he felt?
 - b. Years after becoming a Christian he still reminded himself: “This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” I Tim. 1:15
 - c. “I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.” I Tim. 1:13
 - d. And yet, he became a DYNAMIC DISCIPLE for the Lord Jesus Christ!

- C. Ps. 18:3 “I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.”

- D. Would The Holy Godhead Provide You A Way To Become A Christian And Then Make It Impossible To Do? Such Would Be Appalling And Inhumane.

- E. You CAN Become A Christian; You CAN DO IT!

II. (Slide #4) You CAN Be Restored To Christ!

A. Some Came To Faith But Left The Lord, His Church, And His People.

1. There are many reasons that happens.
 - a. Feelings of shame and inadequacy.
 - b. Hurt feelings.
 - c. Feeling unloved and alienated.
 - d. The tug of friends to return to a sinful pre-Christian life.
 - e. Some stop opposing the ways of the world and succumb to that lifestyle.
 - f. Some sin and feel that they cannot be forgiven.
2. God has given us free will to remain or to leave Him.

B. The Parable Of The Prodigal Son Was Told By Jesus To Show Up The Forgiving Heart Of The Godhead!

1. "I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" Lk. 15:18,19
2. "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" Lk. 15:21
3. "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry." Lk. 15:22-24
4. The message -- the Godhead are EAGER to welcome those who have strayed back into the fold!

C. Their Promise: I Jn. 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

D. Do Not Wallow In Shame And Guilt; Do Not Commit Literal Suicide; Do Not Commit Spiritual Suicide By Remaining Aloof From God And Refusing To Confess Your Sins And To Be Restored.

E. God Has Promised He Will Forgive You; COME HOME!!!!

F. You CAN DO It!

- G. And Oh What Peace You Will Have When You KNOW That You Are Forgiven!

III. (Slide #5) You CAN Live A Christian Life!

- A. He Made A Way For Us To Be Forgiven; He Showed Us The Life That He Wants Us To Live.

- 1. It is NOT Impossible!
- 2. It is possible; it is attainable!

- B. We May Feel Unworthy; However, The Merciful Godhead Invite Us To A Life That We Can Live.

- C. We Just Appreciate Their Grace!

- 1. Paul knew he did not deserve to be a Christian; but OH HOW HE APPRECIATED THE PRIVILEGE!
- 2. I Cor. 15:9 “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

- D. God’s Expectations For Christians!

- 1. Live a life of loving obedience!
- 2. Eph. 1:4 “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,”
- 3. Be a LIVING sacrifice!
 - a. Live FOR Him!
 - b. Rom. 12:1,2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- 4. Be Faithful!
 - a. Rev. 2:10 “**Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**”
 - b. Serve Them with a loyal heart!

5. They Have Made It Possible For Us To Live A Successful Christian Life And To Come To Heaven To Be With Them Eternally!
 - a. I Thess 5:23,24 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.”
 - b. Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
6. God would be so wicked to call us to a life that was IMPOSSIBLE to live! But He Has Not Done That!
 - a. That would be SO atrocious!
 - b. That is SO CONTRADICTIONARY to the Godhead!
7. You CAN LIVE a faithful Christian life!

IV. (Slide #6) You CAN Overcome Sin!

- A. Temptation Is A Constant Reality; Sin Is A Reality With Which We Struggle.
- B. Many Who Want To Be A Christian Struggle With “I Don’t Know If I CAN Live A Christian Life!”
- C. Many Who Are Christians Become Frustrated With Their Struggles With Temptation And Sin.
- D. God’s Call To Us:
 1. Put off sin!
 - a. Col. 3:5 “Put to death!”
 - b. Col. 3:8 “put off all these!”
 2. Determine to live a life that rejects sin!
- E. Scriptures That Cause Many To Feel Totally Inadequate To Be A Faithful Christian:
 1. What about verses that say if you are a Christian “You CANNOT sin!”
 - a. I Jn. 3:6,9; 5:18
 - b. They mean “You cannot CONTINUE TO LIVE A LIFE OF SIN!”
 2. What about “being perfect?”
 - a. The idea is “completeness” or “maturity.”
 - b. I Jn. 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

F What If I Sin?

1. I Jn. 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
2. I Jn. 2:1 “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

G. (Slide #7) You CAN DO It!

1. It may feel like an uphill climb!
2. Jesus shows us that it can be done! His victory over temptation shows us how to be victorious over temptation! Lk. 4:1-13
3. I Cor. 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.”
3. II Cor. 4:16 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.”
4. The Godhead did not call you to a life of perfection; They called you to a life of faithfulness!

V. (Slide #8) You CAN Guide Sinners To Christ!

A. That Is Our Mission!

1. Mt. 28:19,20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.***’ Amen.”
2. Think what we know; think what we have found; think about our hope!

B. Why Would We Not Want EVERYONE To Know It?

- C. If You Can Teach; DO IT! If You Do Not Feel Adequate, Inspire Others To Seek The Lord; Get Brethren Who Feel Adequate To Help You.
 - 1. Don't put pressure on yourself.
 - 2. Realize the VALUE of what you have! Accept the reality that the power is IN THE GOSPEL, not in you! Rom. 1:16
 - 3. Talk about it joyously!
- D. Many ARE Seeking; Let The Godhead Use You To Help People Find Salvation!
- E. **(Slide #9)** We Are To Be About "Seeking The Lost!"
- F. You CAN DO It!

Conclusion:

- A. Sometimes We Feel Very Inadequate; Yet, Realize What Can Result!
 - 1. **(Slide #10)** II Cor. 12:9,10 "And 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. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."
 - 2. Strength can come from challenging our weakness and overcoming.
 - 3. Be an overcomer.
- B. **(Slide #11)** For Those Who ARE Christians -- It Is About Growth -- Progress And Progression!
- C. **(Slide #12)** For Those Who Are Not Christians -- You CAN Live A Faithful, Successful Christian Life! Trust God; Do It NOW!