

My Best; His Best; The Best **By Randy Mitchell**

How many times have you said, "I am doing my best," and knew in your heart that you weren't telling the whole truth. Too many times our supposed best is no more than an excuse for our lack of commitment, lack of passion and excellence of Spirit. Many times in ministry or just in serving God day to day, we get caught in this rut of believing that we are doing all we can do. We are doing our best and that is all we can do, right? Wrong! Most of the time we are not doing all we can, we're just doing all we want to do. Many times we are not committed to being all we can be, rather just committed to all we want to be. Now, before you start accusing me of being a tyrant and start throwing stones, let me explain. The Bible says:

2 Cor. 3:5 6 (Adapted from NIV, AMP, Phil., Moff. translations)

Not that we are in any way competent in and of ourselves to claim anything for ourselves or confident of doing anything with our own resources, or ability in which we might claim credit, but our power, ability, sufficiency, and competence comes from God. He has qualified us making us able, sufficient and competent as ministers and dispensers of salvation through Christ.....

It says that we have no competency, sufficiency, or qualifications in and of ourselves. Half the battle for many of us is realizing that we just don't have what it takes to get the job done. We need much spiritual intervention. We like to pride ourselves in our self-sufficiency, our skills, talents, abilities, but when it comes to God's business, even maintaining a relationship with Him, we have to realize that in and of ourselves we are incompetent and incapable of accomplishing the task at hand. So you see, when you try to do ministry, or serve God, in any capacity, in and of yourself, you fall short every time. You begin to feel like a failure and giving up starts to look like a viable option. Our religious service and our vain works of the flesh become a strain and we struggle under the heavy burden of trying to make ministry work. Your best is never going to be good enough; it's always going to fall short of the best. Struggling in and of yourself is always going to fall short. The arm of the flesh is only going to grow weary and frustrated by the lack of real results of your endeavors. However, read the rest of that scripture. It goes on to say that we have received a competence, His sufficiency, God's ability, His qualifications that qualify us, an anointing that makes us able. We are successful ministers, equal to every task. You see, God didn't give you Jesus Christ, His best, to get back from you your best. I never was, nor never will be good enough. He did not place within you His precious Holy Spirit to get back from you your best, but rather to enable you and empower you to return to Him His best. We need to give His best --Jesus, the Holy Spirit back to Him and to this world. God planted in us His very best, a Holy Spirit seed, at the moment of our new birth, and He expects a Holy Ghost harvest on His seed. He has anointed you, poured out His power, presence, and person by the Holy Spirit. He expects us to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the anointing of God. We

need to learn to flow in our calling and fulfill our divine purpose with power, bearing fruit in every good work in accordance with the will of God. Look at what Colossians 1:9-11 says:

Col. 1:9-11 (NIV, AMP)

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with a full, deep, and clear knowledge of his will, ways and purposes through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, (with a fuller, deeper and clearer insight) being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joy....

Bearing fruit and living a life worthy of the Lord can only be achieved through a revelation of the presence of God in our lives and a full, clear understanding of the strength, patience and joy that is made available to the believer, and the purpose of the will of the Father and the purpose of the anointing upon the believer. We have been by and large powerless, joyless, purposeless and ineffective in our ministries because we have not learned that awesome lesson that God taught Zerubbabel in Zech 4:6, "It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty. It is not our strength but as Paul wrote in Colossians 1:29 "I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." It is not our power, but His power in demonstration through His Word being confirmed by the Holy Spirit as Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 2:4,5, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power." If you have been in ministry for any length of time at all, you have no doubt come to the point where you just get tired of trying to work something up, or come up with the right words to inspire, motivate and challenge people to live differently. Maybe you have sat across the table as someone you love unravels a twisted and seemingly impossible situation that they are hoping you, in your infinite wisdom, can sort out and somehow miraculously make right. As you sit there you feel helpless, worthless. Your flesh is tired from endless trivial pursuits, your mind is a jumble and your spirit is clogged from days of having spent no personal time with God. I hope that this doesn't sound too familiar, but all too often this is how some people stumble through ministry. This, however, is not how God intended for us to minister. We need to stop fishing for the right illustration and stop trying to formulate the right words. Ministry cannot be successfully completed with our best efforts. Our best is not going to be good enough in our preaching, counseling, or our praying. I can't just give the people God has called me to influence my best any longer; it has to be His best. It has to be the Holy Spirit, God's best. My best isn't ever going to challenge a person to make an eternal change. My best will never bring about the miracle needed in most counseling situations. This is what the

anointing in our lives is for. This is the very reason that God has poured His Holy Spirit upon us. This is the reason that he filled us with Himself because our self wasn't ever going to be good enough. This is how Jesus ministered on this earth, full of the Holy Spirit. He never did a miracle, not one mighty work and never did the Words of life flow from his mouth until he had been first filled with power from on high. He set the precedent when He stated in John 14, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father. The words I say are not just my own, but the Father who lives continually in me, speaks, does his works, his own miracles and his own deeds of power". We need to rest in His ability and stop struggling and laboring in our own power. There is nothing we lack, nothing we have need of. "We have received everything we need for life and Godliness", according to 2 Peter 1:3. According to Ephesians 1:3, "We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms by Christ Jesus." We are not lacking in power, anointing or anything. Let's give the world God's best, that's what Jesus died for.