



"Here We Stand"

DEVOTIONAL

February 26th, 2020

Hi Saints,

Do you know that Jesus is sufficient for ALL matters of your life; or are you struggling with the burdens of self-sufficiency? I pray today's devotion taken directly from my book *Wall Street to the Well* will comfort and encourage you that His Grace is sufficient!

Peace and love,
Pastor Stu

Self-Sufficiency or Christ-Sufficiency

by Stu Fuhlendorf

(Excerpt from Wall Street to the Well)

I have a friend who is known for saying, "You will never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have." **The opposite of self-sufficiency is Christ-sufficiency.**

For me, **the foundation of Christ-sufficiency is the pursuit of total surrender to his will and not my own.** I pray often that God will always keep some significant unmet need in my life so that I'm always dependent on him. To be surrendered and in need creates dependency on him. Having too much creates self-sufficiency.

When our lives prosper, the natural tendency is to lose our grip on him. Someone once called this prayer courageous, but it is not. It's a prayer of fear and awe—awe of a holy God. For God has the power to give us what we deserve, whether good or bad. I have come to fear, with reverence and awe, the God who is, for he is a consuming fire.

To be Christ-sufficient doesn't mean that we surrender our minds, but our wills. To surrender the will doesn't diminish the intellect. Just the opposite, the sharpened mind leads us through the process of surrender. **Only thinking people advance themselves, either toward self-sufficiency or Christ-sufficiency.**

Jesus' words in **2 Corinthians 12:9** are comforting, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

Christ may or may not ask you to change your lifestyle, as he did me, but he does command you to surrender it to him, and to do so regularly. I've learned to never hold back in areas that Jesus reveals are

un-surrendered. Holding back leads to self-sufficiency and results in a scuffling with the process of daily surrender.

We are converted to faith in a moment of surrender, like my experience in London that night in 2006, but we are converted to obedience and being Christ-sufficient over a lifetime by surrendering to him anew daily. First comes the moment of surrender, then comes the process of becoming Christ-sufficient.

Jesus says as much in **Luke 9:23. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."**

The power of Christ-sufficiency is that it's no longer about you! Now, in God's eyes, it is about you. That's why he sent Jesus to die for your sins. But from our perspective, it's no longer about us. Paul wrote in **Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."**

When we yield our lives to Christ, our fleshly lives die, and Christ lives through us. Our past no longer matters because it's been forgiven. **Romans 8:1 tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

Your past doesn't matter to God! That's good news for us because all of us are no better than the Samaritan woman at the well. *Beating ourselves up over our past is actually an act of pride because it tells Jesus, "Your death on the cross to forgive my sin was not enough! My sins are more powerful than your ability to forgive."* **The embodiment of self-sufficiency!**

Believe me, I still wrestle with guilt and shame over my past and current behaviors. Then I repent and remind myself that King David was an adulterer and the apostle Paul murdered Christians.

We all need Jesus! The Holy Spirit has shown me that only through our past mistakes, our past sins, our tribulations and sufferings can we gain a greater understanding and empathy for the struggles of others. More important, they give us an understanding of the suffering and struggles of Christ on the cross.

The following Scripture passage is tattooed on my shoulder. **Resist him [referring to Satan], standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:9-11)**

When I stand firm in my faith in the Lord, I know that in everything, God has a purpose for me, all the way from Wall Street to the well. My sufferings, then, will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish me for God's good.

It's the same for you if you have faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. It's a truth that never fades. It's all for his glory—from Wall Street to the glory. To him be the dominion and power forever and ever, amen.

After earning his B.A. and M.B.A., Stuart Fuhlendorf worked in corporate business for 20 years before graduating with his M.Div. from Denver Seminary. He lives in Littleton, Colorado with his wife Trish and serves as the Senior Pastor of Redemption Hills Church in Littleton, Colorado.