



Subject: Up From Here,

Dear Beloved Church Family,

I pray this message finds you well and that your heart is still rejoicing from the powerful word we received this past Sunday. Minister Teasdel blessed us tremendously as he shared a timely message about moving beyond our places of lack and trusting God to perform what He has promised.

Summary: The sermon explored the theme of insufficiency—those gaps and inadequacies we face in life—and how our response to these moments determines whether we experience God's miraculous provision. Through the example of Mary's response to the angel Gabriel and Jesus feeding the multitudes with limited resources, we learned that God specializes in doing the impossible when we surrender our insufficiency to Him. The message challenged us to stop trying to figure everything out in our own strength and instead sit down, be still, and watch God work. Just as Mary said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word," we too must trust God's word over our circumstances.

Takeaways:

- **Surrender brings supply:** When we acknowledge our insufficiency and give it to God (like the seven loaves and few fish), He multiplies what we have and provides overflow. Our job is to sit down, let go, and trust Him to work.
- **Faith requires silence and stillness:** Sometimes we need to close our mouths, hide ourselves away, and let God work without broadcasting our situation to everyone. Elizabeth hid for five months; Mary kept things to herself. There's power in being still during your season of waiting.
- **There shall be a performance:** Luke 1:45 reminds us that "blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." Whatever God has spoken over your life, it's not just going to maybe happen—it SHALL be performed. It's up from here!

As we close out this year and prepare for Watch Night Service on December 31st at 9:00 PM, let's carry this word with us. Store it up in your heart. Whatever you're facing, whatever looks

impossible, remember that with God, nothing shall be impossible. Give it to Him, praise Him in advance, and expect the performance.

Grace and Peace,

ECC Marketing

5-Day Devotional: Up From Here

Day 1: The Posture of Availability

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Devotional: Mary's response to the impossible reveals a profound spiritual truth: God doesn't need our ability; He needs our availability. When the angel announced she would carry the Son of God, Mary didn't focus on her inadequacy or the impossibility of the situation. Instead, she simply said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

In your moments of insufficiency, when the gap between what you face and what you possess seems insurmountable, remember that God specializes in impossibilities. Your inadequacy is the perfect canvas for God's sufficiency. Today, adopt Mary's posture: stop trying to figure everything out and simply say, "Lord, I'm yours."

Reflection Question: What impossible situation are you trying to solve in your own strength instead of surrendering to God?

Day 2: The Power of Silence and Stillness

Reading: Psalm 46:10; Exodus 14:13-14

Devotional: During the 400 years of heavenly silence before Christ's birth, God wasn't absent—He was working. Elizabeth hid herself for five months, and Zacharias couldn't speak. Sometimes God commands us to be still, not as punishment, but as protection and preparation.

In our insufficiency, we often become frantic, trying to manufacture solutions and explain our situation to everyone. But there's power in sacred silence. When you're still, God can move.

When you close your mouth, God can speak. When you stop running, God can work. Jesus commanded the multitude to sit down before He multiplied the loaves and fishes. Your stillness positions you for God's miracle. Be still and know that He is God.

Reflection Question: What do you need to stop doing so God can start working in your situation?

Day 3: Faith That Believes Before Seeing

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6; Luke 1:45

Devotional: "Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." Mary was blessed not because she saw the miracle first, but because she believed before she saw. Faith isn't believing God can; it's believing God will.

Like the empty book bag illustration, you may feel you have nothing to work with. But as you walk in faith, praising God along the way, He fills your insufficiency with His abundance. The disciples had only seven loaves and a few fish, but Jesus took it, blessed it, and fed thousands with seven baskets left over. God doesn't just meet your need—He gives you overflow. Your faith activates God's performance in your life.

Reflection Question: What has God promised you that you're struggling to believe will actually happen?

Day 4: From Weakness to Strength

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Isaiah 40:28-31

Devotional: "When I am weak, then am I strong." This paradox defines the Christian life. You cannot say you're strong until you first acknowledge you're weak. Your insufficiency isn't a barrier to God's blessing—it's the gateway. The fastest you realize you can't do it is when God can show you that He can.

God is waiting for you to get acquainted with your insufficiency, to stop pretending you have it all together, and to cast your cares upon Him. He cares for you. Your weakness is not a disqualification; it's an invitation for God's power to be made perfect. Stop trying to be sufficient in yourself. God is El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One. Let Him be strong where you are weak.

Reflection Question: What weakness are you hiding instead of surrendering to God's strength?

Day 5: There Shall Be a Performance

Reading: Matthew 15:32-38; Philippians 4:19

Devotional: A performance isn't ordinary—it's extraordinary. There are lights, cameras, excitement, and displays of excellence. God doesn't just want to answer your prayer; He wants to put on a performance in your life that will cause others to glorify Him.

Jesus took the insufficient—seven loaves and a few fish—gave thanks, and created abundance. The key wasn't the amount; it was the act of giving it to Jesus. Whatever you're facing, take it out of your hands and place it in His. Give thanks before you see the miracle. Praise Him during your period of lack. It's up from here. There shall be a performance of those things God has spoken to you. Your healing, your breakthrough, your deliverance—it's not just coming; it's already in motion. Get ready for God to show up and show out.

Reflection Question: How will you praise God today in anticipation of His performance in your life?

Closing Prayer: Father God, thank You for Your word that reminds us that with You, nothing is impossible. Help us to surrender our insufficiencies to Your sufficiency. Give us the faith to believe before we see and the strength to be still while You work. We declare that it is up from here, and we expect Your performance in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.