

*Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)*

## **Competent**

I don't feel competent. I don't have confidence. **That isn't all bad.** Why is that? **Think of all the people that I have used to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. Do you have anyone in mind?** I have a one person in mind. **Who?** I have Moses in mind. You mightily used Him. **Yes, I did.** He led an entire nation out of captivity. **Yes, he did.**

**Moses is the perfect person for you to have in mind.** Why is that? **In what way was he lacking confidence? Why did he think that he was not competent?** He lacked confidence as a speaker. He struggled with his words. He felt incompetent because he was not well spoken. **What did he do when I called him?** He argued with you. He tried to avoid doing what you were calling him to go and do. He said he was unable to go and do what you were asking of him. He begged for you to send someone else. **Yes, he did. Did I listen to him? Did I let him reject my call? Did I give up on him? Did I go on to use someone else instead of him?** No, you did not. You would not let him reject your call. **No, I would not.**

**Have you argued with me? Have you tried to avoid my call on your life? Have you told me that you were unable to go and do what I asked of you?** Yes, I have done all these things. **Have I ever given up on you? Have I ever left you alone and set you aside because you convinced me that you were incompetent?** No, you have not. **Will I listen to your argument? Will I let you out of your call?** No you will not.

**When Moses was being used by me, what can you be sure of?** I can be sure that Moses was not relying on himself to go and do what you were asking of him. He would never do that. **Why not?** He lacked confidence and felt incompetent. **So, isn't that a good thing that Moses came to rely on me? He allowed me to work in and through his life. I made him competent. I gave him confidence. I was able to work in and through his life.** Yes, you were.

**Can I work in and through your life? Can I make you competent? Can I give you confidence?** Yes, you can. **Will you stop arguing with me? Will you come to rely on me?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, in my own strength and with my own abilities I am not qualified or competent to serve you. But, you have made me competent. Thank you for giving me spiritual gifts, talents and abilities with which I can faithfully serve you. Amen*

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Competence Comes From The Lord*

Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NIV 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Qualification Comes From God*

We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

NLT 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Competence Is From God*

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NRSV 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Sufficiency Are From God*

Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God. Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.

AMP 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Adequacy Is From God*

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NASB 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Sufficiency Is From God*

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

ESV 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Our Sufficiency Is From God*

And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Only God Can Write Such A Letter*

We couldn't be more sure of ourselves in this—that you, written by Christ himself for God, are our letter of recommendation. We wouldn't think of writing this kind of letter about ourselves. Only God can write such a letter. His letter authorizes us to help carry out this new plan of action. The plan wasn't written out with ink on paper, with pages and pages of legal footnotes, killing your spirit. It's written with Spirit on spirit, his life on our lives!

MSG 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *Success Comes From God*

We dare to say these good things about ourselves only because of our great trust in God through Christ, that he will help us to be true to what we say, and not because we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God. He is the one who has helped us tell others about his new agreement to save them. We do not tell them that they must obey every law of God or die; but we tell them there is life for them from the Holy Spirit. The old way, trying to be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, ends in death; in the new way, the Holy Spirit gives them life.

TLB 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

## **Holy Spirit** *God Who Makes Us Able*

We can say this, because through Christ we feel certain before God. We are not saying that we can do this work ourselves. It is God who makes us able to do all that we do. He made us able to be servants of a new agreement from himself to his people. This new agreement is not a written law, but it is of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

NCV 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

**Our Competence Comes From The Lord** Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Holy Spirit** – 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

**In Context:** *Read 2 Corinthians 3*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Such confidence | as this | is ours | through Christ | before God. | Not that | we are competent | in ourselves | to claim | anything | for ourselves, | but | our competence | comes from God. | He | has made us | competent as ministers | of a new covenant |--not of | the letter | but of | the Spirit; | for | the letter kills, | but | the Spirit | gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, in my own strength and with my own abilities I am not qualified or competent to serve you. But, you have made me competent. Thank you for giving me spiritual gifts, talents and abilities with which I can faithfully serve you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you lacked confidence and felt incompetent in serving the Lord?

Why is it completely natural to feel a lack of confidence in your competency to serve the Lord?

**How has hearing, believing and acting on God's word strengthened your faith in Him?**

When has taking a step of faith with the Lord increased your confidence in Him?

**How has the Lord given you confidence that He has made you competent to serve Him?**

Why is that you cannot claim for yourself what the Lord has done through you?

**How has the Lord used you as you have taken one step after another to follow and serve Him?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord and take one step of faith at a time with Him by doing what He asks.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will make you competent to serve Him.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group something the Lord has accomplished through your life.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you have confidence knowing that your competence comes from the Lord.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, thank you for giving me confidence and competence in serving you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, what will you give me confidence and competence to do for you?*

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