

ADEQUATE SERVANTS OF THE NEW COVENANTS

We are currently studying a series of lessons on the New Covenant. This is important because all Church Age Believers (CAB) are under the New Covenant and not under the Old Covenant.

(2 Cor.3:5-6) “Not that we are **adequate** of 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.”

The Greek verb for adequate is **hikanoo**. It is translated “to make sufficient or enough and to render fit or able and to be adequate for the task.”

Amplified Bible:

(2 Cor.3:5-6) “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 **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. (Jer.31:31).”

<p>This lesson will study FOUR aspects of how every Church Age Believer is an ADEQUATE SERVANT OF NEW COVENANT.</p>
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1. The CAB's confidence, that he has been adequately equipped by God, as a servant of the New Covenant comes from faith in the Word of God regarding it.

(2 Cor.3:6) “And such is the **confidence** we have through Christ towards God.”

The Greek word for confidence is **pepoithesis**. It is an unusual Greek form because it developed into the Greek vocabulary from the perfect tense (permanent confidence from the eternal word of God; (2 Tim.3:16-17).

(2 Cor.3:4) “Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God.” (Amplified)

2. Paul explains what is and what isn't the source of our confidence as adequate servants of New Covenant.

(2 Cor.3:5). “**Not** that we are adequate **in ourselves** to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but (alla/ contrast) our adequacy is **from God**.”

Our adequacy as servants of New Covenant is God's grace and not works of the Law or energy of the flesh.

(Rom.4:4-5) “Now to the one who works his wages is not credited as favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith** is credited as righteousness.”

(2 Cor.12:9) “My grace is sufficient (arkeo/ content with enough) for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

3. Paul explains that God’s Grace provides everything necessary to make the CAB an adequate servant of the New Covenant.

(2 Cor.3:6) “Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, **not** of the letter (grammatos) but of the Spirit (pneumatosis); for **the letter** (to gramma) kills (apokteino / p.a.ind), **but the Spirit** gives life (zoopoieo / p.a.ind).”

- The Old Covenant letter kills.
- The New Covenant Spirit gives life.

It is interesting that Paul used two different words for letters.

- He used epistle (**epistle** for NC) in 2 Cor.3:1-3
- and gramma (**alphabet** for OC) in 2 Cor.3:4-6.

4. The New Covenant ministry of the Holy Spirit was part of the promise section of the Old Covenant.

(Luke 2:25) It is referred to as consolation
(John 14:16) It is referred to as comfort
(John 16:7) It is referred to as the parakletos ministry of Holy Spirit

It was part of the messianic prophecies of (Isa.40:1-3) (John the Baptist in John 1:23).

(Matt.3:11) John the Baptist: “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit (hikanos) to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Acts 1:4-5; 2:33; Luke 24:45-49)

(Gal.3:14) “In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit **through faith**.”

(Gal.3:2) “This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, **or by hearing with faith?**”

(John 7:38-39) “He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ **But this He spoke of the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one of eight works of the Holy Spirit at salvation (**SEE [50 Things Free](#)**) (1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor.6:16).

GOD ‘S GRACE HAS MADE US ADEQUATE SERVANTS OF THE NEW COVENANT.