



Unqualified, qualified

1 Corinthians 1:18-29 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:** 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

- a) God has very unconventional ways of doing things. This catches lots of people of guard. For instance, the preaching of Gospel is foolishness to the people that perish. Little do they know it is the power of God to us who saved.
 - i) For instance, Christ crucified was to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness, yet truly, He was the Power of God and the wisdom of God.
 - ii) Who would have thought? Who would have thought that by Jesus dying He were getting life. He was setting us free. This appears as foolishness to the natural man.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to

nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

b) Not many **wise** after the flesh, not many **mighty**, and not many **noble**, are called.

1) **What and How God chooses:**

- a) He has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.
- b) He has chosen the weak things of the world or confound the things that are mighty.
- c) Base things of the world
- d) Despised things
- e) Things that are not

2) **Why He chooses like this:** There is a reason....

- a) Verse 29 "That no flesh should glory in his presence."
 - i) There is no flesh that should be boasting before the Lord. This is one of the reasons God chooses people that do not have it all together in the natural. We folks cannot take credit for what God has done. If it were up to our own abilities without the help of the Lord, we suck!

Testimony:

I was so bad with public speaking. I never spoke publicly. I was afraid of standing before people and when I spoke, they could not hear me. I was so bad that if I sung babies would cry. It was pitiful. I also remember I could even talk to a girl myself. I needed a middleman to help me. I was afraid of all that stuff including rejection.

Look at me, I have come a long way. There is hope for you by looking at me. If God can use this chap, he can use you.

I'm so thankful to the Lord for choosing me. I wouldn't have chosen me. It was bad! I guess my siblings still wonder. What is this? God what are you doing? God, have you not missed God?

John 15:16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

1 Corinthians 4:7 *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

- i) Everything we have we have received from the Lord. Why then should one boast? Why should one think he is better than everyone else?
 - ii) I'm not better or superior to you, I'm just different, just like you are. I'm called and anointed of the Lord to do what I'm doing.
- b) "My glory will I not give to another."
- i) Isaiah 42:8 *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*
 - ii) Isaiah 48:11 *For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.*
 - o God does not share His glory with another. One of the reasons for that is because He has no equal. He is matchless and no one should boast in His presence.

So, if you are wondering why God chose you, if you are lacking in natural talents and gifts, you are not alone and you are not disqualified. **The way God chooses is very different from the way man chooses.**

- 3) Does that mean that God does not call the talented and gifted? I'm glad you asked. He does!
- a) **But.....those that are very gifted naturally have a tendency to:**
 - i) Depend on themselves.
 - ii) Take credit for the good things that have happened in their lives,
 - iii) giving no credit and glory to God—after all, look how talented, gifted, exceptional they are. Right? Wrong!

Examples:

1) David

David was a forgotten shepherd boy. In the eyes of man, he was not to be considered. He was in the bush tending to the sheep of the family. He was not even presented.

1 Samuel 16:6, 8-13 6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. 11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 16:7 *But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

- a) God does not look at the sex, age, skin color, natural abilities, looks, charisma, attraction, fame, or popularity. When he chose David, he had hardly any of the commonly craved attributes besides looks. He was a nobody.
- b) If you can do what you are doing or what God has called you to do without needing nor depending on the Lord He did not call you and you have not discovered yet His call on your life.
 - i) Why? God will always call us to do things bigger and greater than ourselves where we have to be dependent on Him. This insufficiency causes us to rely on Him and it removes all boasting that comes from our achievements.

2) King Saul

1 Samuel 15:17 *And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?*

- a) This passage of scripture reveals that Saul was not the sharpest knife in the drawer. He was a nobody, yet God chose him. God chooses no bodies and if we understand this, they should not be taking credit and glory for what He does through us.
- b) If we depend on our natural abilities and talents, we limit God!

3) Paul

1 Timothy 1:12-17 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul, the writer of 2/3rd of the New Testament was not the sharpest knife either.

- a) He was a blasphemer.
- b) He was injurious.
- c) He was a chief sinner
- d) He was a Persecutor of the Church
- e) The name Paul means "Little."
- f) He was not an eloquent speaker. His speech was despicable. Shameful.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.
 - iii) 2 Corinthians 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:
 - iv) 2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

- v) 2 Corinthians 10:10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.
- vi) 2 Corinthians 11:6 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.
 - o Rude = from the word "idiot" – Unlearned, ignorant, and rude.

God was merciful to him. He chose him by grace not by his qualification. God counted him faithful and put him into the ministry.

4) Peter

a) Rebuking the Lord

Matthew 16:22-23 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

- i) Peter has a record in the scriptures for rebuking (admonishing or correcting) the Lord.
- ii) Very few would have such a guy on their team.

b) Denied Jesus 3 times.

Matthew 26:69-75 69 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. 70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. 71 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. 73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. 74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

- i) Peter denied the Lord. This is a big deal and he would have been disqualified. I mean it were me, I would have nothing else to do with this guy. I would not only distance myself from him, but I would also **"forgive and leave."** Peter would not be trusted, yet the Lord chose him.
- ii) Yet, Jesus gave Peter another chance and a big one. Peter was unqualified to be used of God, yet He qualified him. **He was the unqualified, qualified.** There is hope for you and me, If God can use Peter.
- iii) This fisherman was called and anointed of God to take His word to the jews.

5) Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4-12 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. 10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

a) Jeremiah is another one who was not qualified according to the definition and the standards of this world. He would hardly be given a chance.

b) He said, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

i) The Lord taught him what to speak and what not to speak.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

ii) The Lord encouraged him not to fear and reminded him that He was with him.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

iii) The Lord healed his mouth and also and gave him the words. He equipped him.

10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

iv) The Lord gave him an assignment and/or call.

c) Jeremiah was unqualified but chosen of God.

6) Moses

Exodus 3:7-12 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. 11 And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Exodus 4:10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. 13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. 14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. 15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and

put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

Moses said he was not eloquent. He was slow of speech and slow of tongue, yet the Lord called him. **Acts 7:22 reveals that Moses was mighty not only in deeds but also in words.** Which is which? Most likely both. There was a time when both were true. Either way, Moses was feeling inadequate and found it hard to believe that God could call and use a person like him. He has just been in failure for 40 years. This was too good to be true.

Regardless, Moses was not qualified. He was so unqualified, yet God called him and gave him a spokesman—Aaron.

7) Without repentance

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

- a) While God has called, and qualified us the unqualified, His giftings and callings are without repentance. He does not retract his callings and giftings to us even if we seem unqualified, rather, He qualifies us.
- b) It is about time to stop licking his wounds for forty years, totally focused on his failure.

In conclusion, remembering that we aren't qualified in our own abilities no matter how awesome we think we are will help in keeping us in check and stopping us from getting puffed up. We all have different functions, graces, strengths, and/or callings. One's not better than the other's. It is just different. One part of the body is important as the rest of it. The head needs the heart and liver and so forth.