

The Qualifications of the Disqualified

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 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.

- a) God's approach is not the one the world has or thinks. He chooses the base, despised, foolish, rejected, unwanted things to accomplish His will and plan. God chose to use a route that could only require faith. No one could have predicted that the preaching of the cross was the power of God. To many, especially the Greek, it was foolishnesses.
 - i) They can't comprehend how a man dying in the cross can bring life, peace, liberty, freedom, salvation, healing, and prosperity. This approach destroys and brings to nothing the so-called wisdom of the wise.
 - ii) Though it is seen as foolishness by some, it's actually the power of God.
 - iii) By the foolishness of preaching to save (heal, deliver, bless, preserve) them that believe.
 - iv) Through wisdom, the world did not know God.
- b) One of the ways we can tell if one is perishing is by looking at their reaction to the cross. If they see it as foolishness, then they are perishing.

- c) We know there is no foolishness in God (far from it!), nor weakness in God. But as a way of expression, even:
 - i) The foolishness of God is wiser than men.
 - ii) The weakness of God is stronger than men.

To the two kinds of people:

1. The **Jews** who seek a sign (miracles)— Christ and the cross are a stumblingblock to them.
 - a) why? How can a man shamed, naked, defeated, dead bring salvation? To them, this is not possible. He is defeated. There is no miracle here. He is dead. Game over. How is that a victory? How is that wisdom? He has lost.
 - b) Yet in that shame, nakedness, defeat, misery, suffering was the miracle(s) they were seeking. It was concealed. It was hidden, and it confounded the wise. It brought to zilch/zero the wisdom of the world. It was incomprehensible and unbelievable to the wisdom of this world.
 - i) While the Jews are seeking a sign, the cross is the sign they need.
 - c) Yet at the cross, all our sin has been paid for in FULL. The answer to all the problems of the world lies in the cross. Who would have thought?
2. The **Greeks** who seek wisdom—To them, the cross is foolishness.
 - a) The wisdom of God is different from the wisdom of man. If the Greeks were seeking the Cross, they would have been seeking the wisdom of God even if it appeared as foolishness to them.
 - b) Note: To those who are called, Christ is everything the Jews and Greeks seek. He is the power of God (Miracles or signs), and He is also the Wisdom of God.
 - c) While the Greeks are seeking wisdom; the cross is wisdom.

Go in this thy might

Judges 6:12-14 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. [13] And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. 14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

- a) Gideon expressed his weakness, and the Lord told Him to go in **His** might. He called his weakness His might.
- b) Our might is in your being little. "Go in this your might." Your disqualification is your qualification to the glory of God. Being insufficient produces a dependency upon the Lord which is what qualifies us.
 - i) **If you are sufficient, if you got it all together, you are disqualified.**

According to God, your disqualification is your qualification. When God is mightily using us, and we get praise from people and so forth, let us not forget where we are still disqualified, and we are only qualified by His grace.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 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 things; 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) **Here are your qualifications—and the ones for your pastor or man of God:**
 - 1. Not wise, although you can be
 - 2. Not Mighty
 - 3. Not noble
 - 4. Foolish thing
 - 5. Weak thing
 - 6. Base thing
 - 7. Despised thing
- b) God does not choose anyone or work through anyone because of their qualification, but disqualification. No one is qualified. Only God qualifies us.

- c) If God called you because of you, your charisma, eloquence, accolades, and so forth, then you would have to share in the glory, but the Word teaches that God **WILL NOT** give His glory with no one.
- 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.
- d) The disqualified can be qualified, the rejected can be used, and so forth. Why?
- i) It confounds the wise
 - ii) Give all glory to God. No man should glory in His presence. Notice that if we are boasting in ourselves, we are not in His presence (Verse 29). We have not gotten a revelation of Him, or else we would not glory. He is the one who chooses those who do not qualify.
 - o In the presence of God, there is no glorying. It's more like WOW, God, You are good! You are awesome, Wow, Wow! If you are boasting in your own self, you are in the presence of self.
 - o People have to look at you and say, "can God use, Rich? If He can, He can use me too. There is hope for you.
 - o Is Saul also among the prophets?

1 Samuel 10:10-12 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. [11] And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? [12] And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets?