



January 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

It's hard to believe another new year is upon us. I know for many, 2009 was a challenge. Between an awful economy and various sicknesses and diseases, many have been stretched in their faith.

As we start this new year, I want to encourage you to truly grasp the fact that Christ is our sufficiency. In the years I have been ministering, preaching, teaching and counseling, I would have to say probably 70 percent of people that are hurt or are going through immense difficulties walk away from God. They don't know how to deal with the hard issues of life. Instead of drawing nearer to God, they run away. But this is not the way it should be. When we truly understand that Christ is sufficient in all areas of our lives, we can cope with the hardships that come our way and actually grow in our faith and in our walk with God.

I want to speak to you about two simple things that I think can really change your hearts and your minds and help you down this road of trusting and believing that Christ is our sufficiency in ALL things that pertain to our lives.

Christ is Sufficient in Our Loneliness

Revelation 1:17-18 says, *"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.'"*

When John wrote this, he was exiled on the island of Patmos. He was alone—no family, no ministry, and no friends. You don't have to be exiled on an island to be lonely. You can be married, yet be really lonely. You can be in a large crowd and be extremely lonely. You can have a great job and even have material things, and be absolutely lonely in your life. In other words, something is missing. Yet in his loneliness, John sought out the Lord. Too often in our loneliness we reach out for the wrong things and bring damaging effects on our life. We marry the wrong people. We lose our perspective and compromise and go to parties and hang out with the wrong people to get rid of the horrible loneliness within our lives.

The Bible says that God will never leave you nor forsake you. Your husband might be gone, but Jesus Christ is there. Your kids might be gone, but Jesus Christ is there. Your friend may have moved to another state, but Jesus Christ is with you. God's committed to be inside of you—to stay by your side and be involved with your life on a daily basis. When we look at our loneliness from God's perspective, we see it much differently. No longer is it a curse but an opportunity. Could it be that God has something better for you? Could it be that God is seeking to minister to you in an area in your life, so when you get around your friends, you're different? And when you get married, you're different. And when you come back to your husband, or your wife, you're different. We need to be able to hear the Lord's voice—and sometimes the best way we hear His voice is when other voices are not surrounding us! When you find yourself in that lonely moment, it could be God. And if you're in the Spirit, you're going to see God, you're going to hear God and you're going to feel the touch of God healing and ministering to your heart.

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Christ is Sufficient in Our Suffering

Revelation 2:10 says, *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

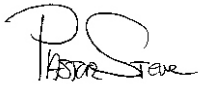
Let's face it—we hate suffering. We don't even like the word! And yet, suffering is a part of our lives. We see all kinds of suffering these days—people suffer through a divorce, or suffer through a miscarriage, or suffer because of the loss of a loved one. Sometimes we suffer because of rough economic times or difficult relationships. When I look at the above verse, I think about myrrh. The way that you get anointing oil is by crushing the myrrh. Suffering is a breaking process. And God breaks us so that He can do a work in our lives! When our sinful life is crushed, we produce sweetness. Great things happen in and through us when we are broken. Jesus endured the suffering of the cross because it brought LIFE and HEALING. Not all suffering in our life is brought about by God. Sometimes we make a bad decision or do something wrong and reap the consequences. The glorious news is that God will use everything to help us grow in the kingdom of God. And so my life is crushed and sweetness comes.

Don't run away from God in the midst of your suffering, but run to Him. When things happen in your life, it should drive you to the cross because ultimately, if you're going to live for Christ, you need to be crucified.

God is the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end. The Word of God is going to abide forever. Though the mountains are removed, yet the word of the Lord is going to stand. So I believe what God is trying to tell us is that if He is at the very beginning and He's at the very end, everything in the middle is His as well! So when we talk about the all sufficiency of God, we need to understand that whatever the great need is in our life, God is there filling it. So if you need joy, He becomes that joy. If you are suffering, He'll give you the things you need to get through. In Acts 17:28 it says, “For in Him we live and move and have our being...” God is everywhere in our lives and in our hearts.

Christ is sufficient to meet your needs in 2010. He will be all that you need and all that you truly desire. Trust Him. He is faithful and able to do what He says He will do in your life.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and "S".

Pastor Steve