

(self) LIMITATIONS



- A feeling of intellectual inadequacy, as if I'm not even capable of knowing enough to ever be a strong Christian.
- Frustration over limited talents, or an inability to learn something new.
- Repeatedly sabotaging relationships.
- A desire to be more charitable, without the resources to accomplish anything that I think is meaningful.
- Feeling unworthy about my blessings, to the point that guilt has paralyzed my ability to feel secure about salvation or forgiveness.
- Fear that I am not strong enough to defeat my "demons."



ADEQUACY



- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – A contrast is clearly being made between those who think adequacy comes from the Law (works) and those who have obtained adequacy by the Spirit of the Living God.
- 3:4-11 – Any adequacy you have comes from Christ. He takes that which is dead and brings it back to life. He takes the sinner and transforms him or her into a saint. He builds us up so that we have incredible confidence in the New Creature, fashioned and fitted together in triumphant grace.
- There is certainly more to be said to address our feelings of limitation and inadequacy, but this must be the foundation upon which all other points are built: you are not adequate by yourself!

"SO, HOW DO I COPE
WITH MY LIMITATIONS?"



TALENTS



- Sometimes what we think is a limitation is just a misplaced desire for a talent that we are not meant to have. In the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14ff), the master distributes his resources as he sees fit. To some of his servants he gives several talents, to another only one. The master was unimpressed with the one talent man – not because he had only one talent, but because he failed to appreciate and utilize it!
- “YOU ONLY HAD ONE JOB TO DO” – It is ironic the way a one talent person might fail to see the importance of his or her singular gift. Rather than getting frustrated, we need to see specialization in God’s kingdom as incredibly empowering (1 Cor. 12:14ff). A toe has only one job, but it must do it well. The eyes also do one thing, and the rest of the body depends on them!

"I JUST WISH I
COULD DO MORE"

2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 11-12



NOT SMART ENOUGH?

- One aspect of knowing God is the intellectual pursuit (Acts 17:1-4). Understanding comes through reading (Eph. 3:4) and faith is built up by hearing the word (Rom. 10:17). To be sure, there is enough in the Bible to keep even the keenest mind thinking and pursuing for a lifetime!
- But pure knowledge is not the end-game. In fact, Paul explains that the deeper pursuit is one that goes beyond worldly intellect. Notice Ephesians 3:14-21.
- Remember how diverse the early church was – the earliest disciples were fishermen and tax collectors, blue collar workers and political extremists. Greek intellectuals (Acts 17:34), government officials (13:12), former priests (6:7), beggars (3:8), men and women from every social class – the gospel appealed to them all.

APPLICATIONS

- If you love the truth, you will know it to the extent that you can – and that is enough to please God (John 8:32, 2 Thess. 2:10-12).
- Keep pursuing, even if you don't believe you're smart enough to learn anything new. You will surprise yourself!
- Do not compare yourself to anybody else. Remember, there are brilliant minds that have failed to grasp basic theological concepts, such as the logic of there being one, supreme Creator or the resurrection of the dead (Acts 17:32).
- Salvation is not based on how smart you are, and neither is your usefulness to God!
- Take it slow and start small. The Ethiopian eunuch knew enough to be saved, and that's a great starting point for anybody!