

Disqualified? No, In Him I Am Qualified!

II Cor. 13: 5 Examine yourselves **as to whether you are in the faith**. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you?**

By B. D. Tate

Ask yourself a few questions: Are you a sinner? Do you have a hard time believing? Do you fall short of God's righteousness? Are you weak? Do you need help? If we answered yes to any or all of these questions we qualify for the grace of God in Christ Jesus!

We have often found ourselves disqualified when it comes to God's promises. Many times we have received this (disqualification) from others but most times it comes from our own heart's condemnation. We see ourselves as distant, undeserving, unworthy, and often very conditional recipients of God's grace. I have heard many say, "I more readily see God answering other's needs before my own." Or, "I can see God healing others far easier than I can see God healing me." In other words, we don't see ourselves **as God's beloved or standing in His unconditional favor.**

We might see ourselves as loved by God but as one of His not as good son or daughter. We know our sins, we know our heart's desires, and we know **how little we actually return God's love to Him.** We think that God is just like our earthly parents who will discipline us according to our behavior. Our parents might promise us this or that but often it is conditioned upon our obedience. **This conditional experience hinders us from believing that God's promises have already been given to us.** We think that since God knows our heart that He is holding back from us because we are not worthy, or we haven't met His conditions...

1Jo 3:21 Beloved, **if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.**

If our own heart condemns us we **don't** have confidence towards God—it's that simple. When we condemn our own hearts we are disqualifying ourselves from God's blessing. We are taking ourselves out of the game so to speak.

II Cor. 13: 5 Examine yourselves **as to whether you are in the faith**. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.**

The Word disqualified (adokimos ad-ok'-ee-mos) Means: -reprobate, castaway , rejected.

- 1) Not standing the test, not approved
- 2) That which does not prove itself such as it ought
- 2a) unfit for, unproved, spurious, reprobate

The truth is this, anyone not in Christ, walking in faith in Him, is **disqualified already**. This is true because anyone not in Jesus is not born again and not redeemed. **What is the qualification for being in Jesus?** It is being born again **and believing in Him!**

Joh 3:18 "**He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Qualification for the blessing of God is found in one thing: **that we believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

John 6: 28 Then they said to Him, "**What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?**"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

Therefore, disqualification occurs when **we do not believe in Him**. It is a strange thing for us to find that faith in Christ is the only requisite for qualification. We have grown up having most of our opportunities,

blessings, privileges, honors, and awards based *squarely upon conditions*. **We are conditioned for conditions...**

This is the old way (under the law, under the elements of this realm) and how it works. This old way will hinder us from **the simple faith** found in the gospel of Jesus. Our natural man thinking will cause us to miss grace—we disqualify ourselves because we try to appropriate the things of God by works of the flesh.

Gal. 3: 1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

2 This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**

3 Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

4 Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

5 **Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? --**

6 just as Abraham "**believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**"

7 Therefore know that only **those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.**

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

9 **So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.**

What qualifies us before God? It is faith in believing in Him (Jesus alone). It is accepting and standing in the finished work of the cross—and that alone. **What is the good fight of faith? It is fighting to stay in God's grace and not take the bait to add to it works or conditions or other factors.** *Faith and works* come together as we believe the right things and *assert* (works) them into our lives—because we are qualified!

It Is Believe In Him!

There is the position of believing in Him and then adding to it other conditions that hinder our receiving or manifestation of His promise. We can find ourselves just as the father of a demon possessed son found himself when he said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

When we are born again we have been given the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith. **We have been given the very faith of Christ**—we don’t have a faith problem (Gal. 2:20). However, that doesn’t mean that all of our unbelief has been removed from our heart. God will not override our will to take over our heart and dictate to us. **God’s provisions, blessings, presence, and power are all subject to our heart (Eph. 3:20).**

This means that we have “work” to do. We have our part to play and that is to address our fears, unbelief, and what I call the “weeds” of our heart. Our fears come from imaginations that we do not want to happen. These are thoughts that have been planted in our heart by what we have seen or heard. We embraced those thoughts as real, possible, and likely making them our own. When we were convinced of their possibility happening to us they became planted in the soil of our heart. Over time we fed these fears by our experiences, our interpretations of the facts, by hearing of other’s demises, and by imagining them happening to us. The scriptures warn us about guarding our heart by casting down every argument, fearful imagination, and contrary thought opposed to the will of God. We are to bring every thought into obedience of Christ (I Cor. 10:5). **It is our responsibility to guard our thoughts and meditate upon God’s Word (Ps. 1).**

As the gardener of our heart, the work we do is to put away sinful thoughts and imaginations. We have often been negligent thinking that our thoughts just happen and we have nothing to do with stopping them. Our undisciplined thinking has led to strongholds in our heart. These are imaginations that strike deep into our fears. We have not protected, weeded out, or defended our hearts against the fiery darts of the wicked ones. We have not stopped the false images of who God is

or what He is like according to the world. **We have not discerned the facts of this realm from the eternal truth found in God's Word.**

Pr 4:23 **Keep your heart** with all diligence, for out of it spring **the issues of life.**

Let me describe several areas that I see that have disqualified us in our own heart; thereby, hindering us from believing God.

- 1) **We have lived under the law (and by trying to return to keeping the law by faith in Jesus) we have put ourselves back under its judgment.** The law's purpose is to expose sin (Rom. 3:20); therefore, its only value towards us as sons and daughters in faith will be **to disqualify us. If we live to the law and examine our hearts by it we will never qualify.** It will continue to keep us under its guardianship (condemnation and guilt). We received Christ by faith in God's grace. We don't continue in the law that once held us in bondage and then find freedom in Christ.

Gal. 3:3 **Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

The law will only keep reminding us of our failures and falling short of God's perfection—it is a futile endeavor trying to keep it period. Therefore, put away the law for we died to it when Christ died on our behalf in the cross (Gal. 2:20).

Ro 7:6 **But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**

Ga 2:19 **"For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.**

- 2) **We have disqualified ourselves by trying to earn faith.** We have exchanged the gospel of grace with another gospel of works—self righteousness which is lewdness to God.

Jude 1:4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, **who turn the grace of our God into lewdness** and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have been taught that we need to pray more, to know God's word and study the scriptures more. We've been taught that our obedience to these things is what qualifies us to have our prayers answered. If we build up our faith then God is pleased to answer us. We need to tithe so that the windows of heaven are opened and God is pouring out for us a blessing we cannot contain. We need to serve and give so that God is pleased enough to hear our prayers. **We have emphasized our love and service to God** and that is what makes us qualified. When we serve we have *credited ourselves—in essence earning faith*. We have believed that God will hold back from us if we *sin*—our sins have separated us from God! We have seen God as deciding whether or not we should get what we've prayed for...We have believed that we get what we deserve and then tried to deserve it.

We have begged God to answer prayer. We have bargain with God in order to get God to answer prayer. We have gotten mad at God because our prayers are not answered. We see God as weighing us in the balance daily and deciding if or when He'll pour out grace on our behalf. **All of this comes from a works or earn it mentality.** For us to see God as deciding to bless us, forgive, and heal us it is if all of God's promises come with conditions. We think it depends upon us believing Him **and** doing the right things. We teach: live right and you will be blessed. This too is based upon keeping a clean record. It is based upon good works—which all come under the law. At the

core of this teaching is the belief that God **hasn't actually helped us yet**; we need to get God to pour out His grace.

All of this ignores the fact **that there is no superior status with God**; what God has done for one He has done for all in Christ Jesus. **Grace makes us all equal! All the things of God in Christ are yes and amen; they are not yes and no (II Cor. 1:19, 20). God already did provide it all in Christ—we are the ones not accepting it, holding it off, not recognizing the truth. We are qualified through the blood and have been given all that we need.**

Some struggle with doing everything they've been taught about Faith. They have spoken to the issue. They have denounced works. They have come believing its God's will. They have prayed in the name of Jesus. They have prayed the right verses and cast down contrary thoughts and imaginations. They know they believe even if they do have some unbelief; yet, they remain sick or their prayers *seem* unanswered. **Whatever God is He is neither a vending machine nor some formula that we must follow to get His grace to manifest in our lives.** Jesus said have faith in God. This means believe and trust in the nature of God's love and that His grace **is done in our life. Rest in Jesus as one knowing we were heard and have the petitions we have set before Him (I John 5:14).**

What is the point then of praying, reading the word, speaking the word, or singing and worshipping the Father? If we are doing our righteousness **to get God to do something** then our motivation is wrong. We are in unbelief because we have not accepted that God's word has already given us all things (II Pet. 1:1-3). **If we do these things because of our gift of righteousness** then we are in the right place and in the right position with God. We don't work for God's blessing; we work because of them...because they have been given to us! **We do these things so that we are aware and growing more confident in what God has made us in Jesus.** We do these things to grow more sensitive to our Spiritual life...God's gift of love.

- 3) **We have not believed with our whole heart.** What qualifies us is believing in Jesus. This believing is with our whole heart. God's place in our life is always first (Mat. 6:33). When we treat His word as secondary it will reflect in our believing Him. If other things are more important and we trust what others say more; this too will reflect in our heart towards God. This is actually spiritual adultery that is hindering our believing.

Ps 119:2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!

Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, **when you search for Me with all your heart.**

Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom and His righteousness..."

Ro 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness,
and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

God will not be second or third or some kind of honorable mention in our life. If we treat the grace of God with a half hearted effort we may not see anything from the Lord (The guilt of Cain). If we treat the grace of God as common or something of a fail-safe; as something we go to when nothing else works...we are not respecting the Lord. Honor the Lord first, live for the Lord first, look to the Lord first...not second and not just when all else fails.

We believe in the atonement and what it costs; therefore, we should respect that grace poured out for us two thousand years ago **by committing our life to live by it.** We don't discourage you from going to doctors or using medicine; however, if it never changes in your heart that God's grace is for you first and the medical profession is secondary, then we are not putting God first.

As long as we tolerate unbelief and do not address the “weeds” of our heart, we are allowing (not God) for our heart to be hardened and remain in doubt—we are disqualifying ourselves. I have exhorted this congregation to identify those weeds by what fears are present in our life. I have encouraged you to use my addressed weeds from the Word of God. I have encouraged you to list your fears and I’ll help you address them from God’s word; but don’t sit back and take it easy as if God’s grace means nothing to you and not address them. **Our part is our heart!** We are the gardeners and responsible. God can’t put His word in our hearts or our mouths we must do it; we must take the Word of God and make it our priority.

- 4) **We have not renewed our mind to think like God thinks. If we are struggling with believing God we need to understand how this happens.** Our hearts are the soil that seeds get planted into (The Sower sows the Word Mark 4). Those seeds are thoughts, ideas, imaginations, fears, doubt and unbelief from the world; or they are hope, love, faith, assurance from God’s word. The seeds that we embrace, trust, buy into, accept, consider important, real, powerful, and true; are the ones that get planted. When we are convinced of an idea or imagination then it gets planted in our heart. **We are not the source of seeds we are the soil that grows seeds in our heart.** When we don’t trust God’s word it is because we trust another’s word instead—spiritual adultery. When we don’t have confidence in the promise of God it is because we have more confidence in another’s promise. We hear and we believe; that’s what gets planted and grows in our heart. If we change what we hear and trust in our garden will also change. If we remain undisciplined and allow whatever we hear to grow in our heart we’ll remain mixed up and in unbelief.

We can’t make ourselves believe we just embrace something to believe in...disqualification happens by the choices we make to listen to the wrong things.

Right now we believe what we have embraced in our heart's soil. What we have heard and with our mind and considered important, true, likely, and logical. Often we have done this with a mind trained to think naturally, carnally (sense driven), and like the world. We are admonished to renew our thinking to think like the Lord:

Romans 12: 2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Our mind is a wonderful tool that is also governed by what is put into it and which nature influences its reasoning. Here are several verses that speak to this:

Ro 8:7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God;** for it is not subject to the law of God, **nor indeed can be.**

Ro 8:6 **For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

This is far more than just training to think positive (although even in the natural realm that is beneficial). **When we think, speak, and act in agreement with God's word *we are believing in Him!*** This is faith that hears God's word, understands the new creation we've been born into, embraces the grace in the finished work of Christ, and then stands and asserts the truth over the fallen facts of this world. A carnal mind dominated person is in contradiction to God's truth and that disqualifies us as one who is in unbelief. **We are disqualified simply because we will not stand or act upon the truth; faith to our natural mind is foolishness.**

I Cor. 2: 14 But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to**

him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

If the things of God seem foolish to us we can know that we are acting in our natural man condition. Change the channel to think God's thoughts by thinking God's word. The word is the power to transform our mind and our heart's condition. The word is good seed and will produce in us the right believing which will lead to right living.

Conclusion: God Is Not The One Disqualifying Us; In Fact, He Is The One That Qualified Us In Jesus!

God is not the one disqualifying us. In fact, in Christ Jesus we are qualified period. We are saved and forgiven; **yet, in this life we can miss God's grace by not acting in it or upon it.** We disqualify ourselves by the works of the flesh, coming under the condemnation of the law, and by not honoring and putting first the kingdom of God—believing with our whole heart. Furthermore, the battle begins with the renewing of our mind in Christ. We win when we cast down the natural things that have bound us. We walk into qualification by believing in the **BELIEVING ONE!**

Mr 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible **to Him who believes.**"

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he **who believes in Me** shall never thirst.

Joh 3:36 "**He who believes in the Son has everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Joh 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me** has everlasting life.

Joh 7:38 "**He who believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Joh 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in Me**, though he may die, he shall live.

Joh 12:44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "**He who believes in Me**, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

Joh 14:1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Ac 13:39 "and **by Him everyone who believes** is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Consider that all of these verses **put the believing squarely upon Jesus who is in us!** When we were dead in trespasses and sins ***we could not believe period.*** When we hear the gospel of grace we are given the gift of faith and believing. We received the believing one!

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; ***it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;*** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live ***by faith in the Son of God***, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Under the law, believing was upon us; under grace believing is to believe in Him! In him we live and move and have our being (believing)! **It is no longer I who believes, but Christ who believes in me and through me!** I now live in this flesh by faith in/of/through/by the Son of God. He has ***saved me to the uttermost*** that includes my need to be able to believe (Heb. 7:25)...all things are possible to Him who believes. Are we the believing one? No, it is Christ who is the believing one and we are joined with Him (I Cor. 6:17). As born again believers in Him we have been made qualified for all of God's grace. Amen.

We disqualify ourselves when we place the burden upon our own believing; because we are fallen, disqualified by the law, and unable to save ourselves in any way. We need a savior who becomes for us our life, our righteousness, our strength, our peace, our faith, and our qualification (Rom. 5:17).

How do I know I'm qualified to receive all that God has given in His grace? I know because I am accepted and forgiven in the blood of Jesus. I know because I have the Holy Spirit in me. I know because the qualified One is in me and He makes intercession to all possible depths, places, and issues in my life. **I simply believe in Him who is in me and that makes me qualified.** **Since, now I am embracing the truth that in Christ I am qualified; I now choose to speak, think, and act in agreement with the grace and truth that has come to me in Him! I trust His peace, walk in it, live to it, and believe it is the answer to the power of God changing me and those things that need to be changed around me—I am qualified to believe Him!**