

## **Is God Enough for You?**

A few days ago, one of the brothers asked me a question which has stuck in my mind. When he asked me, I thought it was a normal question, but it keeps coming back to me. The question is: “Is God enough for you or is God enough for me?” If I ask you randomly that question, of course, you will say, “God is enough for me, and I am depending on Him in my daily life.” But think about a few scenarios that might be going on in our lives; maybe we are going through some suffering or some challenges. For example, if I lost my job or if I lost somebody in my life dear to me or if I quarreled with my wife and I am not on good terms with her. There are so many challenging situations in my life. In that time is God enough for me to overcome or to get over the challenging situation? Is God enough for me to speak with my wife even though I do not agree with her? Is God enough for me to go and speak with my brother or sister even if I do not agree with them? Is God enough for me when I was going through a difficult situation when I lost my job, and I had to depend on God? That is one side of it. God is speaking with me regarding the suffering or the challenges that I face.

As I kept on meditating upon that phrase, I also thought that there is another side to that question. Is God enough for you when you have everything? Is God enough for you when you are comfortable in your life? Is God enough for you when you are earning very good money and living a comfortable life? There is that aspect to the question. Whenever we start earning good money or living a comfortable life, we all think about earning more or being more comfortable, getting a costly car or a bigger house or something like that. We all must work through those kind of situations.

Today I am going to speak about two sides of this coin, two sides of this question, “Is God enough when you are comfortable and when you are suffering?” I will take a few examples from the Bible itself. I will go through the life stories of a few people of what they have done, and what

we can learn from them, and how it will help in our lives as well. But when I am thinking about this question and all these parts running through my mind, I will be using Acts 2.

Acts 2:25: “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved.”

When I had this question in my mind, and I was considering these thoughts, God spoke with me through this verse particularly.

David was in a comfortable and suffering situation. If I could speak about this question, I will use David’s example. He has been through highs and through lows; he has made mistakes in his life. He has done everything, and now he was coming back and testifying: “He foresaw the Lord always before his face, and he is saying that He is on my right hand that I should not be moved.” So God is always before your face, and He is at your right hand to lead you and guide you. So, we will concentrate on examples from the lives of some people and refer to this verse which is the main verse that I will speak about. So, remember, David foresaw the Lord always before his face, for the Lord was on his right hand, and it is the same thing for us too.

Now we will apply these two points to a few people in the Bible who are in the book of Acts. One is Barnabas, we know Ananias and Sapphira, and we also know Stephen. We all know these characters, but let’s dig a little deeper into what the Scripture is saying and see if we can tie it back to this verse in Acts 2:25.

### **Barnabas**

Let’s take Barnabas for example. Acts 4:36-37: “And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, the son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

So, this is the first time that Brother Barnabas has been introduced in this book of Acts. What is the Bible testifying about Brother Barnabas?

Verse 37: "Having land, (he had all the land he wants) he sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." He had done that. Barnabas had to sell the land that he had and lay it at the apostles' feet because in those days the brothers who were doing the ministry were the people who were working for the Lord, and they did not have any money. They needed some help from the believers who were acting through Jesus Christ. So Barnabas, without thinking, without having a love for the material things that he had, sold them and laid all the money at the apostles' feet.

So, what can we learn from Barnabas through these simple two verses? We see his humility; He did not want to beg or preserve what he had. He had the humility to present everything he had at the brothers' feet. That was how humble he was. He was not saying, "Okay, I sold the land, and I am giving you money. I have authority over you. I can rule over you or I can control you." No, he just gave the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. He was humble, and he had love for God.

He was not saying, "Okay, what will happen to me if I sell this land? What will happen to me in the future if I need money or something else?" He had love for God, and he had no fear about the future itself. And we can also see his willingness to serve the kingdom. He not only sold the land and gave the money, but he also traveled with the brothers and served the Lord in His kingdom. All these are the qualities that we can see in Barnabas. And most importantly, we see his faith towards God, that God was going to take care of him. That was the mindset that Barnabas had. Even though he had everything, even though he was comfortable, even though he could live a normal life by believing that the Lord Jesus had died for him, he left everything; he sold everything to serve the Lord.

I am not saying that we must sell everything that we have and give it to the church and serve the Lord. I am just saying we should not love the material things that we have. We should be in a place that if God comes and asks me to sell my car or to give money that I have in my savings account, I should be ready to let it go. I should not be thinking that I need to save some of my money. So that is the example that Barnabas was setting. So right after talking about Barnabas, and how he sold everything, we come to the story of Ananias and Sapphira.

### **Ananias and Sapphira**

In chapter Acts 5:1-11 we have the story of Ananias and Sapphira. They sold a possession they had, but they kept a portion of the money they received. Then lied about it to the brothers. What happened when they lied about it? In verse 3 in the second part it says, “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?” Who was asking that question? Peter was asking that question. Peter said to Ananias, “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?” They lied about keeping some of the money. The result of that lie was in verse 5: “When Ananias heard these words, he fell down, and gave up the ghost:” He died, and Sapphira also died, (v. 10).

What can we learn from Ananias and Sapphira? If you compare it with Barnabas, what can we learn from them? We have an example of one who served the Lord, who worked for the kingdom, but when you look at Ananias and Sapphira, they became an example of those who received punishment from the Lord. I say that because of verse 11 that says a great fear came upon all the church and upon as many as heard these things, because they feared the punishment of the Lord. They became an example of punishment. So, one became an example to serve the kingdom of God, and Ananias became an example of the punishment of the Lord.

So, we should learn when we have everything, when God gives us everything, when we are comfortable, we need to be content to let it go. We need to be content not to love those material things, as much as possible. Whenever we see a need, we need to be ready to help them, even to bring them through some kind of suffering or challenge in their life. We need to help them. So that is the kind of heart that God is expecting from all of us.

Even as students you may be getting good grades, and everything is very comfortable for you. You are good, “Okay, I am getting good grades, and everything is good.” But we need to be taking time off and spending it with God. So, God is asking us to spend time with Him, rather than spending time improving our way of life. When we are comfortable, when we have everything, when we receive the blessings from the Lord, we need the mindset like Barnabas. We need to be ready to let it go, and not be like Ananias and Sapphira.

We also can become complacent when we are comfortable and have everything. We will not be prepared to let go of the things we have when the time comes. I am not saying again to sell everything that you have, but we need to be ready to let them go when the Lord tells us to give away things.

## **Stephen**

Now that we have seen one side of it, we will come to the other side of it. When we are suffering, is God enough? We will take our brother Stephen as an example and see how he stood for the Lord when he suffered. But we will also see what Stephen was like before the suffering; how he lived his life. The Bible is clearly helping us to understand the nature of Stephen’s character.

Acts 6:5: “And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and

Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch.”

In this word, we see Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost doing great wonders and signs among the people, (see Verse 8).

Stephen was a great man who depended upon the Lord and had faith in the Lord. He was full of the Holy Spirit to do great wonders for the Lord and for His kingdom. He was a great man. If we had a man like him these days, he would be very popular. He would be surrounded by people, he would be surrounded by everyone. All news channels would cover him. That means he was very popular in those times because he was doing great wonders. The Bible is testifying that he was doing great wonders. But being that great, being a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost and doing great works, what happened to Stephen? How did he die? He was martyred. He died because people stoned him. His own people, the Israelites, his brothers and sisters stoned him. He suffered a great death, and he also faced many accusations.

Acts 6-7 tell us how the people of Israel accused Stephen, how they said that Stephen had done something wrong. So many people accused him and stoned him. He suffered a lot but being full of the Holy Spirit and having great faith in the Lord, we find what Stephen did in Acts 6-7. He testified with faith about the works of the Lord even in the Old Testament as well as the last time through Jesus Christ he had faith for the given office.

In Acts 7:55-60: “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet,

whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen who was calling upon God, and saying, Lord, Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Even though he was getting stoned, even though the people were accusing him, and he was about to die, what was he doing? He was praying for the people who were stoning him. He was praying for the people who were trying to kill him and accuse him. But what was his mindset? He was looking at the heavens, and he was seeing Jesus Christ in front of him, and he knew that he was going to be with Him after he died. That was why in the last minutes of his life he was praying for others. So that was the mindset of Stephen. But if you look deeper, and I try to understand the mindset of Stephen, we can understand it through the teachings of the mindset of the apostles. That is why I say this:

Acts 5:41: “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”

So, the context of this verse was that Peter and other apostles have been in prison, and after they had been released that was the testimony they passed on. What did they say? They were rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. They were rejoicing because they suffered shame. They were not complaining; they were not saying, “How could they do this to us?” But they came out rejoicing in the name of the Lord because they suffered for the Lord. That was the training Stephen received, and he chose this for his life.

That is the mindset we need to have when we are suffering. When we are going through difficult situations, we need to rejoice because God counts us worthy. We are counted as worthy to go through that suffering so that we can help others, and we can testify to the greatness of the Lord whenever we come out of that suffering. We are counted worthy of the Lord, and that is the main reason we need to rejoice. It is not the blessing that we receive, or whether we come out of that suffering or

not, but God counted us as worthy. That is the mindset we need to have whenever we are suffering. God is enough for us. God is enough for us when we are going through sufferings. We do not need anyone. God is enough for us when we are going through sufferings.

So, Barnabas, had everything, sold it, and we see what happened to Barnabas. He got trained and he worked for the Lord. We have seen Stephen going through suffering, facing the accusations from the Israelites, but he did not move. He has been counted worthy. He rejoiced in the Lord up until the last minute.

So, what is the result of these two people? Someone had everything and gave up everything for the Lord. Someone suffered and even praised the Lord and saw Jesus Christ in the heavens. So, what was the result of these two mindsets? We will see. Who trained Paul? Who trained with the Apostle Paul?

### **Paul**

Acts 9:26-27: “And when Saul came to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.”

Barnabas had been trained by the apostles, but the apostles feared Paul because of the things he had done. So, who took him in and trained him? Barnabas. He had the mindset in serving the Lord and working for the kingdom. He also took Paul in because he knew where he was coming from, and he also understood Paul, so he took him in and trained him. He knew what Paul had been doing in his ministry life.

Who was collecting the clothes when Stephen was being stoned? Saul. He could have heard the testimony that Stephen gave of all the things that the Lord had done, and he said, “I see Jesus Christ up in the heavens, and I am ready to go.” Saul should have heard all these things.

And whenever you hear something peculiar, it will stick with you. And this is what I believe. When Saul was on the road to Damascus, and the Lord was with him, the first question He asked was, "Who are You, Lord?" He did not ask, "Why am I seeing this?" He addressed Him directly as Lord. Because of the testimony that Stephen shared I believe that Saul knew it was the Lord Himself who had come to visit him. So Paul was the outcome of these two mindsets: one was when someone had everything and left it, and the other was when someone suffered and rejoiced in that suffering. We all rejoice from the work that Paul did. Do you see how believing that God is enough for you brings out the fruit that we are enjoying in this generation we are in? Barnabas took Paul in and trained him. Stephen laid down his life so that God could raise up Paul and we see what God has done with Paul's word ministry in everyone's life.

So, after this I thought, Yeah, God is enough for me. Even as I suffer, even I have everything, I need to stick with the Lord. I need to see the Lord's face in front of me, and I need to believe that the Lord has my right hand and that He will lead me. He is enough.

So, when you are thinking about this, I have another question. Yes, I believe now that I am not just saying God is enough for me, but through the experiences of these brothers I can say, "God is enough for me."

### **Am I Good Enough for God?**

Now I have this question that is the follow up of the first question. Am I good enough for God? Now it is towards me. Okay, I can say to everyone that God is good enough for me, but when I did something wrong or when I am in a difficult situation, there is this question that maybe everyone has. But I have gone through this question: Am I good enough for God, to serve Him or to be called His child? So, this is another question that I had after meditating upon all these verses. Am I good enough for God? Are you good enough for God? You can just say, "Yes, I am good enough for God because He lives His life in me. He made me in His own image. You can say that. But whenever you have made a mistake,

whenever you have done something that God will not appreciate, in that situation what will be your answer? Can you say that you are still good enough for God?

There are many days in my life when I come before the Lord's table, and I feel that I am not worthy to take part in the table. All these types of questions we have. Then to answer that question, God started speaking to me through a very small character in a passage in Acts 16. We all know the story of Paul and Silas in prison and what happened there. The prison keeper got saved because of the things that he had seen in front of him.

### **A Prison Keeper is Saved**

In Acts 16:7-31 we find that Paul and Silas were in prison, and the prison keeper got saved through the things that happened that night in the prison. But how did Paul end up in that prison? In verse 7, we find that Paul wanted to go to Bithynia.

Acts 16:7: "After they (Paul and Silas) were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."

They wanted to go to Bithynia to do their ministry work, but the Holy Spirit suffered them not to go.

Verse 9: "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."

Instead of going to Bithynia Paul went to Macedonia. After arriving in Macedonia, he helped Lydia and then baptized her. After he baptized her, she invited Paul and the people with him to stay at her place. And Paul and Silas and all the people went to Lydia's house, and they preached the gospel to her family and explained everything. They stayed there for a while. While staying at Lydia's place, there came a damsel who had been possessed with an evil spirit who prophesied about some things while her owners were making money off her. But after she had seen Paul, that person who was possessed, started following Paul and his group. Paul got

annoyed and then delivered her. Because he healed her, the officials and magistrates in that place put Paul and Silas in prison. For the prison keeper to get saved, the whole itinerary of Paul had been diverted, and he had been brought to Macedonia for this prison keeper to be saved. Who was he? He was not an Israeli; he was a Gentile who was guarding the prison. But if we look deeper into this prison keeper from verses 26-31, we will see how the prison keeper has been saved.

Acts 16:26: “And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.”

And the question that the prison keeper asked was: “What must I do to be saved?” (v. 30)

I think that the prison keeper was in deep trouble even before Paul arrived. He might have been in some trouble or something like that because he started to take his own life. It was not because he was afraid of the magistrates and officials that they would punish him if Paul and Silas had escaped. It was not that because right after he heard from Paul his question was: “What must I do to be saved?” It was not like, “What must I do to keep from being killed?” “Or what must I do to be saved from the magistrates?” He knew that Paul and Silas were the children of God because they were singing, and he would have heard those things. Right away his question was right on the money. “What must I do to be saved?” So now what was Paul saying? It was not like, “Okay, we did not escape so the magistrates will save you. You will be saved from your officials.” No, it was not like that. Paul’s response was in verse 31: “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

His question was right on the money, and he has been saved through the response of Paul. And Paul helped him to pray and get baptized and all his household as well. So, you see God orchestrated the journey of Paul to save this one prison keeper. So even now I am asking that question: "Am I good enough for God?" Was this prison keeper good enough for God? Yes, he was precious to God. He orchestrated the whole journey of Paul and brought him to this prison and saved this prison keeper.

So, let's tie everything back together. We have Barnabas, we have Stephen, and through their mindsets, Paul was in this prison, and through Paul this prison keeper has been saved. You see that God is enough when you have everything, God is enough even when you are suffering, and there is fruit coming out of those things, and you are at the center of God's plan. So, God orchestrates everything for you; you are very important to God. Even though you think God is not enough for you, even you might also think God is enough for you, but God always thinks you are good enough for Him. God always loves you. He pours out His immeasurable grace upon you. You may think you are not good enough for God, you might think God might not be good enough for you according to your expectations, but God always thinks you are good enough for Him. He loves you. He orchestrates everything in your life so that He can bless you, so that you can be joyful, so you can be saved and be closer to Him. He wants to have that personal relationship with you. You are always good enough for Him. You are more than good enough for Him because He knows you when you were in your mother's womb. He created you in His own image. His love and affection for you is immeasurable.

So, let's tie all this together back to Acts 2:25. So we all think that God is in heaven and looking upon us. But what will He be seeing? God is right in front of you. You just have to look at His face and believe that you are good enough for Him, and He is good enough for you, and you have that personal relationship with the Lord. You will just have to hold His hand so

that He can lead you and guide you in your life no matter what kind of situation you are in. Whether you have everything, and you are rich, whether you are poor, maybe you are suffering because you lost someone, or you lost your job. Nothing matters. The only two things that matter—you are good enough for God, and God is good enough for you. This is the thought that God has put in my heart, and I wanted to share it with you. Thank you.