



teacher
≡ BE STILL

5-DAY

devotional

WITH

EDUCATOR

affirmations.



You've Been Qualified

"But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." Exodus 4:10-12

Have you ever had this thought run through your head : "What in the world am I doing? What made me think I was capable of pulling this off?" I hope your answer is yes, because this thought crosses my mind almost daily! It's a tricky little tactic of our enemy and one that God has a pretty solid solution for.

The truth is, self-doubt is a problem that has plagued man since the beginning of time. Feeling like we fall short or like we are ill-equipped to complete a job is a familiar notion that even Moses experienced. Moses was assigned a mission directly from God, and although He was eager to please God, he still doubted his capabilities.

Moses repeatedly asked God to use someone else, and as patient as God remained with Moses, He finally reminded him that He created him and He was fully aware of all his shortcomings. He tells Moses the only bit of information he needs to go forth in confidence. . . . I will be with you because "I AM".

I am. So simple, but what does it mean? It means I am everywhere you are. I am strength, I am bold, I am fierce, I am a protector, I am a shoulder, I am whatever you need whenever you need it. "I AM WHO I AM." Now go. Moses could walk in confidence because he had the great I AM with Him, equipping him, paving the way, coming to his defense.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

EXODUS 3:11, Esther 4:14, 2 Corin 12:9-10, Phil 4:13

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The same is true for you. It isn't by accident that you were born when you were, that you live where you do, that you're in education at this time in history at this school. God does not make mistakes. That means that whatever is going on, you are equipped and qualified to navigate it. No no no no no no - not you alone, but you . . . with the Great I AM.

God knows the obstacles you're facing, He knows what areas you doubt yourself in, he knows you may not think you're the right person for the job. But He also knows you better than you know yourself. He knows fully well the unique traits and abilities that He placed inside you. He knows your strengths and He wants to help reveal them to you.

Sweet teacher - trust Him. Don't go another day without inviting Him to walk through your day with you. You are called. You are qualified. And you are the perfect person for this job.

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EXODUS 3:11, Esther 4:14, 2 Corin 12:9-10, Phil 4:13

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13:35 People

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35 ESV

13:35 is a movement of the body of Christ to extend the offering of prayer to anyone that may need it. We all walk in different circles, and each of us is presented with a unique set of people and circumstances throughout our days. Many are hurting, many more are searching for some glimmer of hope. 13:35 isn't in-your-face Christianity, rather it's an opportunity - an invitation.

Being a leader within your campus means being willing to show love for everyone on campus - your colleagues, your students, even the parents of your students. In this verse, Jesus is explicit in his direction that love is what sets you apart from the world. If we look and act like the world, how will they know we are his? This means setting our opinions, our judgments, our frustrations, and our impatience aside to hear the needs of those around us.

The culture of education has shifted. The pandemic added heaping portions of strife, division, fear, and angst to already overwhelmed and over-extended educators. Gone are the days of teaching being the "best job for a mom", movie days with a roll-in VCR, and simply teaching to teach. Now education as a whole is drowning in political gain, money, manipulation, and check box after endless checkbox. This makes teachers beyond tired, run-ragged, impatient in the classroom and at home. Often colleagues are the ones that wind up on the receiving end of all that strife and anxiety, making going to work even harder.

Even still, Jesus has still called us to Love, to go to Him with our anxieties, and to be Light in the darkness. This can be exceptionally hard when you're staring at a mounding plate of responsibilities you know you will never conquer.

But we believe in you, Sweet Teacher. We know that God didn't place you where you are by accident. We know that the people in your midst are in need of something only you can give. So, take a deep breath, mighty Esther - you were born for such a time as this.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

John 13:35, Romans 12:2, Phil 4:6-7, Matthew 5:16

You're Not Enough (I said what I said)

"But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." Exodus 4:10-12

Do you ever feel like you're not enough? Like you give and give and do and do and it's just never enough?

You're not alone.

Education is one of those jobs that's like laundry. You work hard all day, completing your task and feel pretty good about it. You're relieved that it's done and that you made it through, only to turn around and find that a toddler has just changed for the third time that day and has put every outfit into the hamper. It is. NEVER. ENDING.

The truth is, you will never be enough. You can't possibly be enough. And you weren't created to be enough for this job, for your family, or for anyone else for that matter. None of us is ever enough for this world and all its demands. But we are enough for God, and He is enough for everyone and everything. In Him, we find fullness.

I love the key verse for today. It's all about Moses. He was seriously doubting his ability to carry out what the God of the universe was asking of him because he had a speech impediment. He basically asks God, "Are you sure?" And I love God's response to Moses...Here's My paraphrase: "Moses- who made you? Boy - get out there and do what I told you to do. I am fully aware of all your faults and flaws. I got you, my son - now go!" This exchange between GOd and MOses reminds me so much of conversations I've had with my own kids when they question what I'm asking of them.

You're Not Enough

(I said what I said)

"But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." Exodus 4:10-12

But what I really love about this, is that Moses wasn't complete or perfect or enough for the job God had placed before him. He wasn't enough, but he was just right for the job. God chose him, directed him, placed him where he needed him, and said go. At every doubt (which Moses had a lot - you really need to read Exodus to see how much Moses questioned God), God matched him with - "I'll be with you." God knew Moses didn't have at all, He knew he'd fall short, but that didn't matter. God **wanted** Moses to come to Him for all he needed - to trust in God and see that He is faithful!

Just like Moses, none of us is perfect or enough for all that is asked of us. But that doesn't disqualify us from our positions. It doesn't mean we aren't meant for where we've been called. What it does mean is that we need to remember we have a God that is ready to fill in where we fall short. He's ready when we're tired, he's there when we're at the end of ourselves, and He knows that you may doubt. But He delights in us going to him as our source.

If you've felt like you're not enough, like you don't have it in you to pull off your job, remember Moses. And remember that you don't have to be everything to everyone. God created us to need Him. He created us to seek Him in all we do. When we walk with God, when we let him match us step for step, that's when we will find enough. That's when we realize that we aren't enough because He is. He's enough. and He so desperately wants to partner with you.

Deep breaths, sweet teacher. You were never created to do it all.

Watch for Miracles

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

I love it when unexpected things happen. I'm not talking about being blind-sided or surprised. I'm talking about being in a situation where there seems to be no solution or no obvious way out, and then out of nowhere something amazing happens. Like when something really awe-inspiring takes place and you're talking about it for weeks.

This is exactly the kind of thing that happened to the people of God over and over again. Miracles and unexpected blessings happened to God's people all throughout the Bible. The tricky thing is, many miraculous moves of God took place with tens or hundreds of years between them. The stories of miracles were shared and passed down, and the tangible proof of God's power rested in faith and hope and the wonder of the people sharing their experiences over and over again.

Stories.

But the Bible isn't just a collection of stories comparable to a book of fairytales. The Bible is our history, our family's true story, and God's miracles were as expected then as they should be today. The Bible tells us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8). This means if He performed miracles, big and small, back then, He can and will do it today. And many times, He is performing miracles, but we get so busy that we miss them.

Isaiah reminds us that God will make a way. No matter what you're facing, no matter what circumstances surround you, God has a plan and He will make a way. This verse says He will make rivers in the desert - a clear, miraculous move. He's telling us - let go of the past, forget what's happened and look forward.

Watch for Miracles

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

This doesn't mean you don't learn from past mistakes. It simply means you don't dwell on the past or let the past dictate your future. It also means that you have no idea what God has planned, but you do know that you can count on Him to do the unexpected.

If you're feeling overwhelmed as you head into the holidays....STOP. Take a breath. There is nothing in your life too hard for God. There is nothing you've done, no situation too complicated, no shame too deep for God to make a way.

As you head into November and December, remember these words - "I am doing a NEW thing". God has you. He has your family. He has your job. He has your students. He sees you hurried, He sees you overwhelmed. Go to Him.

Take all your stress and all your worries to Him and have faith that He means what He says. The same God that delivered the Israelites out of Egypt by parting the sea, is the same God ready to deliver you into abundance and joy!

Every day rejoice in knowing you serve a God that is bigger than anything you face, and He has a plan that is not only unexpected, but miraculous. Keep your eyes open and watching - He will not let you down.

Resting in the Midst of Stress

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:34

Let's face it. Stress is one of those words that we can't seem to get away from - especially in a job that could be considered "high-stress". Stress can manifest in so many different ways, and its impact on our health is massive. So, how do we deal with it? How do we realistically manage our stress when we are in such a constant state of go, go, go and do, do, do? It's actually a pretty simple answer, but a much more difficult follow through.

In His infinite wisdom, God made each of us completely and utterly unique. In all your life experiences, giftedness, family make-up, and life's purpose, you are set apart. And while it's wildly incredible to be such a unique being, it makes a one-size fits all fix near impossible.

Consider Jesus' words in Matthew 6:34. Even back in the day, life was stressful and full of obstacles. But stressing and worrying didn't accomplish anything then, and it certainly doesn't now. Actively bringing our cares to God, trusting Him with all the heavy things on our hearts, and asking Him for His peace can change it all.

The only fix to a stressed out heart, is a peaceful one. And truly the only peace you need will not be found in this world. God's peace is a Fruit of the Spirit for a reason - it's holy, righteous, and it permeates every crack and crevice in a tormented heart. It's truly all you need.

Next time you feel like you're drowning, go to Him. Stop in the middle of your day, wake up and go to Him, scream in your car - whatever you need to do - just take it to Him. Believe that He has all you need to get through it, humble yourself and receive His peace. Relinquish control, let go of expectations, and just find rest in the shelter of the Most High.

And get outside. As often as you can, get in touch with Creation. It will help.

HOPE

My Hope is in Jesus

"YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE AND MY SHIELD; I HOPE IN
YOUR WORD." PSALM 119:114

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WELLNESS

*I can focus on my wellness
without guilt*

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING; INSTEAD, PRAY ABOUT
EVERYTHING. TELL GOD WHAT YOU NEED, AND THANK HIM
FOR ALL HE HAS DONE." PHILIPPIANS 4:6

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REST

I deserve and need Rest

"IN PEACE I WILL BOTH LIE DOWN AND SLEEP; FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY." PSALM 4:8

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PATIENCE

*When I am at my end, I
will pray for Patience*

"REJOICE IN HOPE, BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION, BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER." ROMANS 12:12

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LOVE

I am Loved just as I am

"BUT GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US, BECAUSE WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US." ROMANS 5:8

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STRENGTH

I am equipped for this moment

"BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT." ISAIAH 40:31

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VALUE

I am valuable to God

"FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM."

EPHESIANS 2:10

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TIME

*My personal and family
time is a priority*

"FOR IF SOMEONE DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO MANAGE HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD, HOW WILL HE CARE FOR GOD'S CHURCH?" 1 TIMOTHY 3:5

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