

As I was writing down a devotional that God had been laying on my heart this week, I was so excited! I couldn't wait to share the Truth that He had given me. As I was typing in the names of the email receivers, questions of doubt came flooding through my mind: *Why am I sending this? Why would they care to hear from me when there are so many good teachers at their disposal? What if they think I'm arrogant? What makes me think I'm qualified to write on God's Word? Why do I feel such passion about getting His Word out to my friends, my family, my sisters in Christ? Are my motives pure?* Well, these are just a FEW of the questions that I'm still discussing with the Lord on this subject. Some answers came from Him to me today as I was reading in the book of Romans.

*Romans 15:14: "I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."*

What makes one competent to write or share God's instruction in any way with others? According to Paul, we as believers have God's knowledge at our disposal, which makes us competent to instruct one another **as He leads us**. We have to be cautious, though. Warnings are all throughout Scripture reminding us to be careful when we teach about the things of God. Two that come to mind are the following: *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."* (2 Timothy 2:15)—AND—"Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar." (Proverbs 30:5-6). WOW!

Now that I know that I am competent through Christ and that I must be cautious, the passage in Romans goes on to show me that I need to be confident. *Verse 17 & 18: "Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—"*

I can be confident, because Christ is the One speaking through me and directing me to lead others in obeying God. Isn't that cool? If He stops inspiring me and leading me to do so, I will stop. If He needs my hand to be quiet for awhile, I'll put my pen down. Until then, I'll trust in the competence and capability He has given me, I'll be cautious to handle His truth correctly, and I'll be confident and bold, unashamed of His message through me.

What capabilities has He given you for instructing others? For me, it is writing because He has given me an ability to express His truths in that way. For you, it could be completely different. It could be dancing to Truth or singing the Truth or teaching the Truth to a small group or praying in the power of the Truth or encouraging others with His truths. It might even be reading His Word to your children or an elderly person.

Is there any capability you are holding back because you don't feel qualified? He is able to make you competent to instruct others with it. Are you careful when handling the word of Truth? Ask Him to teach and reveal His Truth to you so that you can accurately share it. Will you be confident enough to share your wisdom, your insights, and your testimony with other believers so that we can help each other walk through this life in victory? Be bold! The goal is to bring us into unity and fellowship with one another, therefore bringing glory to Jesus Christ!

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6*

Do you have doubts, such as mine...sort of a false humility about where He's given you a gift, therefore holding back? You know what? Let's not buy the enemy's lie any longer! If you have a talent, use it! Hold it loosely and openly before your Father who gave it to you in the first place. He'll choose what to do with it. Together, let's move forward in confidence and openness with one another, keeping Him at the center of it all.

*Father, may we give You and You alone the glory You deserve!*