

Simply Enough

You are simply enough. Sometimes we think, “If I were smarter. If I work harder. If I could present myself better. If I could do more.” If...if...if... what is driving your “if”? We want people to love us for who we are, but it may not seem that love comes to us. It seems like no one loves us—even if they say they do. We may think “If they saw the “real me” would they still love and accept me?” If you are looking for that special someone that can fulfill that longing in your heart to be loved and not overlooked, look no farther. Jesus is the One.

Jesus is the One who sees you just as you are—mess and all. He knew you before you were born. He designed a plan for you before you were born. Before you took your first breath on earth, you were loved. Before your mom could deliver you from her womb, Jesus already loved you. Before you made your first mistake, He made a plan of escape. Before you told your first lie, He paid the penalty for your sin. Before you could walk or talk, Jesus was present to walk and talk with you. He is a personal Savior. A personal Redeemer. A personal and for real God that chooses to walk with you through your mess.

There were Biblical characters who messed up. Abraham offered up his wife to a king in hopes that the king wouldn’t kill him. But God visited the king and told him not to touch Abraham’s wife. Where was God? Right there guiding the way. When David committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed, where was God? Right there, waiting for David to repent. And when David repented, God forgave him. When Peter denied Jesus three times before the sun arose, where was God? Right there, waiting for Peter to repent.

Truthfully, sin causes us to not feel sufficient or that we don’t measure up. Because sin causes us to feel shame, regret, and not worthy to be loved. But the sin that causes these feelings can be washed away. Today you may not feel “enough.” Today nothing may feel “enough.” But God says that you are “simply enough.” The part that is missing can be two-fold. First is “Do you know Jesus? Does He live in your heart?” If not, he waits for you to invite Him in. The second is that the effects of sin have erased the feeling that you are already loved and that you are already simply enough. So, you must believe in yourself, that no matter what you’ve done, you are still loved. So don’t think of this as the end of life, for your life is just beginning.

Dear Jesus,

You see them as more than just a blob of flesh walking around on earth, not feeling alive or having any worth. You see them as your own personal creation. They belong to you. And you have offered them eternal life because you love them so much. Their feelings of guilt, shame, remorse, or intimidation do not belong to them. You have so much more “life” to impart in them. You loved them before they were created, before they took their first breath, and you will always love them—forever. They cannot earn your love because it’s already been freely given. You have loved them regardless of their sin. But I pray that they will ask you to stay living in their heart and help them to turn into the lovable person that you already see. It’s not about hiding who they are from you. It’s about being open and honest with you because you already know and see them.

May they feel that they are simply enough for you. For you do not compare them with anyone else. You made them unique because you wanted them that way. I know that you love them, forgave them before they sinned and you consider them a rare commodity. So, I pray that they will feel you pouring out love and grace such as they have never known before. Jesus, you have especially created them out of pure love. May they know that they are simply enough. Yes, and Amen!

Dr. Nina Gardner

Jehovah has appeared to me from afar, *saying*, Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you (Jeremiah 31:3)



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