

Do You Measure Up?

Have you ever had that vague feeling that you didn't quite measure up? Maybe you were the last person picked in dodge ball, or maybe you just missed the honor roll.

Most of us have the nagging conviction, deep down, that we're just not quite good enough.

But good enough for what?

I remember my fondest desire at summer camp. I was privileged to go to camp three summers in a row. There were awesome activities with lots and lots of fun camp stuff.

But there was this one special thing. One camper from each dorm was chosen to go on the weeklong canoe trip up into Canada.

Oooh, how I wanted to go on that trip! But my first year there, someone else was picked to go. And the second year. And the third.

Somehow I just wasn't good enough.

Of course, many years removed and with the experience of selecting kids for other opportunities at other times, I know that all sorts of factors go into choosing an individual, and I know that being "good enough" is frequently not the determining factor.

The truth is, not everyone can be picked for everything all the time. And when we're not chosen, we have a choice. We can interpret the denial of our aspirations to be proof of our ultimate insufficiency, or . . .

Or, we can genuinely trust that Rom. 8:28 is true. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose."

Look closely at the latter part of that verse. If we have tasted the grace and pardon of God through Jesus the Messiah, then we ARE *the* called according to his purpose.

Each of us fits somewhere exactly within His plan. (See Eph. 2:21-22.)
What a shame if we grieve over lost opportunities, and in the process miss the neat stuff that He has planned especially for us!

For while I didn't get to go on the trip to Canada, I did learn to slalom on the lake, I won the riflery award, I captured the bat that was terrorizing the dorm—in short, I got to do all the things that were just right for me.

So if you have this nagging doubt that you just don't measure up, remember this! You aren't a loser. You're not even a runner-up. Instead, you have already won the blue ribbon, the trophy is waiting just for you, and your victory is written in stone by the blood of the Lamb.