

# 4Ws A NEW

Starting Right  
by Knowing God

# EL SHADDAI

JANUARY 3, 2021

## WORSHIP

The Same Jesus,  
You Are, Unbroken  
Praise

## WELCOME

Do you have a new  
year's resolution?  
Whether YES or NO,  
share which areas  
of your life need  
improvement or  
resolution in 2021.

## WORD

### GENESIS 17:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> I will make My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."

### EPHESIANS 3:20

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

As we face the new year, the Enemy would like to paralyze us and make us prisoners of our past regrets and failures. It is truly a hopeful and course-changing truth to remember that in the Bible we are told to forget what lies behind and to keep pressing on to what is ahead (**Philippians 3:13-14**). We cannot change the past but today can be the first day of the rest of our lives if we decide to pursue the right things. Hope beams at every new year because we can face it with renewed faith and confidence in GOD. So how are you today compared to last year? Are you growing? Remember that the day you stop changing is the day you stop growing! Let this year be a year of continuous growth; and let us grow in our knowledge of God!

We continue our study of the Names of God in this new series, ANEW. Today we study the name **EL SHADDAI**, translated as **GOD ALMIGHTY**, and pertains to the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY of GOD**. We will look into three aspects of God's sufficiency as displayed in the lives of the patriarchs—**Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**.

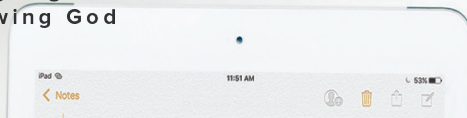
### 1. GOD IS ALL-SUFFICIENT TO FULFILL HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIVES

In **Genesis 17:1**, we find the first occurrence of the name EL SHADDAI. The root word of SHADDAI is SADAD which means "powerful". It also means to "deal with mightily and sometimes with force or strength". Thus, it is translated as GOD ALMIGHTY in our Bibles today. This name can also mean GOD IS ABLE TO NOURISH. He is able to pour out provisions and take care of whatever needs may arise. No wonder this is the name that God used to introduce His characteristics to Abram; He is truly ALL-SUFFICIENT!

**Ephesians 3:20** captures best the capability of God to "**do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think**". This strongly appeals to us as people who are prone to wander, commit mistakes, and fall into our own weaknesses. The Apostle Paul writes further in **2 Corinthians 12:9** that God's grace is **sufficient**. It is more than enough. To experience God's sufficiency, Paul says "**power is perfected in my weakness**". The word **perfected** is from the Greek word "to complete" and **weakness** (Gk. **Astheneo**) oftentimes refers to physical weakness or sickness. We should rather boast about our weaknesses— whatever infirmity or problem that may be, because the power of Christ is fully expressed in us when we depend upon Him in our weaknesses.

Going back to **Genesis 17**, notice that God first introduced **Himself as GOD ALMIGHTY (El Shaddai)**—all-powerful and all-sufficient; before He gave a command to Abraham. God first gave Abraham an assurance that He will fulfill His plan for Abraham's life. God then commands Abraham to "**walk**" with Him (**Heb. Halak, Gk. Eurasteo**) similar with **Romans 12:1**, which means "to live a life that is pleasing to God"; a lifestyle of worship and pleasing God. El Shaddai equips and empowers us to pursue His plan for our lives. In **vv. 10-12**, God established a covenant with Abraham and for all the other generations to follow. The covenant of circumcision shows that while God gives promises and commitments, we have a part to play—our obedience to Him and ultimately the "circumcision" of our hearts (**Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4**). God can accomplish things that are impossible, such as when He promised a child for Abraham and Sarah even though they were old and could not bear children (**Genesis 17:17**). God proved to Abraham that He is able to fulfill His promises. Do not limit God with your own concept of physical limitations because **GOD is ALMIGHTY**.

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## WORD

With God, **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE**. God desires that we become like Abraham—that our faith will continuously grow. That faith can only grow when the object of our faith becomes real; it should always be God. The more we know God, the more our faith will grow. There’s no way to grow our faith if we are ignorant of God’s character and promises.

### 2. GOD IS ALL-SUFFICIENT TO PROSPER US

The name EL SHADDAI appears again in **Genesis 28:1-3** when Isaac called his son, Jacob, to introduce him to God Almighty. Isaac experienced first-hand God Almighty work in his life. Our faith must be **real** and **personal**. Faith cannot be inherited or passed on. We can teach our children and disciples about God, but they must have a real and personal encounter with the living God. The problem of second-hand faith is that when trial or adversity comes, it’s harder to stand firm because God is not real and present in the lives of those without personal experience with Him.

Isaac experienced how God was able to prosper him amidst marrying a barren wife (**Genesis 25:20-21**), experiencing famine (**Genesis 26:1-3**), and being bullied by people who wanted to drive him away while God commands him to stay and sow in that land (**Genesis 26:12-13**). In dealing with the Philistines (**Genesis 26**), Isaac learned to trust God and make steps of faith. God was able to meet his needs and prospered him. Isaac was rested because he grew in his knowledge of God Almighty (**El Shaddai**). God is sufficient to prosper us and supply for all our needs (**Philippians 4:19**). Where do you put your faith in? Focus on GOD ALMIGHTY!

### 3. GOD IS ALL-SUFFICIENT TO TRANSFORM US

EL SHADDAI also dealt with Jacob directly in **Genesis 35:10-12**. The change in Jacob’s name was symbolic of God’s ability to transform his character. God allowed him to go through trials—cheated by his uncle Laban 10 times. To transform somebody takes time, but **Philippians 1:6** says God does not get tired or gives up on us. He had begun His work on Jacob’s life and He is “**able to complete (Gk. TELEO) it**”. The “wrestling match” in **Genesis 32:24-29** was the pinnacle of Jacob’s transformation. Prior to this, he believed he can get blessings through scheming and cheating. He realized then that it was GOD who can truly bless him, and so Jacob clung on to Him. God is Almighty; He will do everything necessary to transform our character including a dislocated hip in Jacob’s case, which caused him to limp for life. In **2 Corinthians 12:7-8**, Paul talks about his “thorn in the flesh”. He pleaded for God to take it away but it remained with him. In **vv.9-10**, Paul tells us that when we recognize our weakness and surrender to God Almighty, we will experience His power.

Jacob was a stronger man despite limping for the rest of his life. Paul was a stronger missionary despite his thorn in the flesh. Our lives should not be defined by the physical comforts of this world because: **GOD IS ALL-SUFFICIENT TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES!**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

### 1. Self-Check.

What is your most significant learning about God being El Shaddai (Almighty and All-Sufficient)?

### 2. Setting It Right

We are imperfect people just like the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). What do you think God wants you to change or improve on this new year? How are you going to do it?

### 3. Living It Out

In what ways can you inspire or lead others to trust in El Shaddai, the Almighty God who is All-Sufficient?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that your loved ones will personally know and experience El Shaddai. Take time to know how you can pray for and serve them. Share the good news that God is all-sufficient to save us, transform us, and fulfill His plans in our lives through the Jesus Christ.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants  
A God-centered Philippines  
Repentance and Salvation

### III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples  
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families  
Ministries and Churches worldwide

### IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center  
Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God  
Righteous living  
Salvation of family and friends