

There is a poem that I learned in elementary school. It is an anonymous work, and it goes like this:

*My friend, beware of “good enough,”
It isn’t made of sterling stuff;
It’s something anyone can do;
It marks the many from the few.*

*The flaw which may escape the eye
And temporarily get by
Shall weaken underneath the strain
And wreck the ship, the car or plane.*

*With “good enough,” the car breaks down,
And one falls short of high renown.
My child, remember and be wise,
In “good enough,” disaster lies.*

*With “good enough,” the failures rest
And lose the one who gives the best.
Who stops at “good enough” shall find
Success has left them far behind.*

*For this is true of you and your stuff—
Only the best is “good enough.”*

In the first reading, St. James admonishes his listeners, and us, to not settle for a partial application of our faith. He explains that hearing God’s word is a good first step, but if it isn’t realized in our own actions, then we are forgetting to apply the Word.

In the Gospel, Jesus heals a blind man. In the first part of the healing, he asks the man what he sees. If the man settled for ‘good enough,’ he might have said that he was healed. But instead, he speaks up and says that he saw “*people looking like trees and walking.*”

Our own faith can never be just half-way ... nor can our surrender to God’s will be ‘good enough.’ Rather, we must persevere in prayer and in life - striving to be open to God’s grace, and with that grace - working constantly to be true disciples of Jesus Christ ... in everything ... and in all ways.