

His Grace is “Sufficient.”

June 22, 2020

2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-9 NIV - (8) Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **(9)** But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

The first time I, “Fasted” correctly, I wondered to myself, “How did I do it?” “How did I do that many days?” For I had never done that before and to experience the super natural really just blew my mind! In my mind, it wasn’t possible! Father, how do I do this without experiencing a, b, c and/or d? It was God’s grace. It was nothing I was doing but following His word. It seemed impossible, but His grace is sufficient.

In the above passage, Paul speaks of a “thorn in the flesh” in **2 Corinthians 12:7**. He calls it “a messenger of Satan” that had a purpose of “torment.” Many explanations have been put forward, but whether Paul is referring to a physical, spiritual, or emotional affliction—or something else entirely—has never been answered with satisfaction. Since he was not talking of a literal thorn, he must have been speaking metaphorically. Some of the more popular theories of the thorn’s interpretation include temptation, a chronic eye problem, malaria, migraines, epilepsy, and a speech disability. Some even say that the thorn refers to a person, such as Alexander the coppersmith, who did Paul “a great deal of harm” (**2 Timothy 4:14**). No one can say for sure what Paul’s thorn in the flesh was, but it was a source of real pain in the apostle’s life. Paul clues us in concerning the thorn’s purpose: “To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations.” So, God’s goal in allowing the thorn in the flesh was to keep Paul humble.

The point being made here is, regardless of your status, “His grace is sufficient.” You can get through your situation by trusting totally in Him and following through on His instructions. He wants to clean up your status that we have allowed the enemy to influence. This must be done from a spiritual mindset. It cannot be done with a carnal mindset (**1 Corinthians 2:14**).

Sanctification is defined as being set apart. In this case, set apart from sinful behavior or incorrect thinking. Being religious won’t do it, but a true relationship with Him will. His tool He will use, “Grace.” And we will never be able to say we did anything, because that thorn will always keep us in check! His grace, our Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 1:14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our sufficiency is from God!

“A JOURNEY OF THE HEART”