

Second Corinthians

Instructions to the Church

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) 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.

Sufficient Grace



"Every believer must learn that human weakness and divine grace go hand in hand together,"

Philip E. Hughes

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I. The Pain of The Thorn v.7

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

A. The Personality of This Pain –

Galatians 6:11 (NIV) See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

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I. The Pain of The Thorn v.7

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

B. The Place of This Pain –

Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

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I. The Pain of The Thorn v.7

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

C. The Persistence of This Pain –

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II. The Purpose of the Thorn vs.7-8

2 Corinthians 12:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

A. Thorns Regulate Our Flesh –

“to lift oneself above one’s place”

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II. The Purpose of the Thorn vs.7-8

2 Corinthians 12:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

B. Thorns Rejuvenate Our Faith –

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II. The Purpose of the Thorn vs.7-8

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

A. The Promise of Divine Sufficiency –
“the undeserved love and favor of God”
“to be possessed of unfailing strength; to be enough”

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

- When a sickness strikes, the Lord's grace is expedient enough to heal and prolonged enough to demand a dependence on Him that was never before seen.
- When resources are scarce, the Lord's grace is sufficient and He will provide.
- When faced with a conflict, the Lord's grace is potent enough to see you through it so long as you realize that at the foot of His cross, all conflict has already found its resolution.

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

- When uncertainty is tainting your mood, know that the Lord's grace is the beacon of light that will provide the pathway to a place of prosperity.
- When people fail to live up to your expectations, understand that the Lord's grace is enough even when you have placed your identity in people instead of the One who made people.
- When a dark season befalls your life, realize that the Lord's grace is just as visible there, regardless of your ability to see it.

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

- When exponential growth is not instantly visible in your ministry, embrace the grace of our Lord because he rewards not the boastful but *first* those who are *faithful*.
- When it seems that you are lacking something, boast in that weakness because this is exactly the area in which God will want to display His power and glory.
- When it seems as if though the gospel has stopped spreading, repent of not seeing the Lord's grace as the gospel *is* producing its fruit in the entire world, including yours.

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

- When it seems as if though you are not accomplishing much, remember what the master says to his servant: *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”* ([Matt. 25:23](#)).

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

B. The Promise of Divine Sovereignty –

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NIV) ²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

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III. The Promise in The Thorn v.9a

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

B. The Promise of Divine Sovereignty –

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

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Good Morning Ladies,

Think about a circumstance in your life that you would change if you could. Are you frustrated? Worried? Angry? To experience the freedom of contentment in the midst of it - whether hardship or unfulfilled desire - you must accept the situation as having been allowed by God, even if He didn't cause it. In these situations, we need to pray, "Lord, I choose to accept this as though it's coming from You. No matter what I see, I'm choosing to look to You." Then you can rest in Him knowing that He is in control and that you are a child of God. Instead of feeling like a helpless, hopeless victim of your

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circumstance, you can know you are cared for and guided by your sovereign Father through whatever may come your way.

The second crucial decision is total submission. This doesn't mean approaching God insincerely and saying, "Well, Lord, I just want to thank You for this! It's all just so sweet, Jesus." No, it's not. Be honest and admit, "This is painful and I don't like it. But I choose to submit to You because You are trustworthy and loving. I'm willing to persevere until You accomplish in me whatever You want. I choose to draw from Your strength for everything I need." If you make this decision and follow through, your fears will lose their power.

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Either you believe Romans 8:28 or you don't. And if you do, you can entrust yourself to the Lord, knowing that He has your best interest at heart, will take care of you, and won't ever leave your side. When you embrace these truths, you'll have no reason to be anxious.

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God's Grace is Sufficient!

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Sufficient Grace

