

SUFFICIENT GRACE OF GOD

Date: 12 April 2026

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Theme: Sufficient Grace for Humbling Circumstances

INTRODUCTION

- Life brings real, persistent pain
- We pray for relief, but God often gives grace
- The question is not:
 - “Why is this happening?”
 - “What is God producing through this?”

God's grace is sufficient- even when suffering remains

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- Paul under intense attack (2 Corinthians 10-13)
- False apostles:
 - Undermining his authority
 - Destroying his reputation
- His suffering:
 - External (persecution, hardship)
 - Internal (betrayal, rejection)

Greatest pain = relational wounds restoration.

UNDERSTANDING GRACE

Grace (*charis*) = undeserved favor

Covers:

Salvation, sanctification, glorification

Grace is:

- Super-abundant (Ephesians 2)
- Grace upon grace (John 1:14)
- Abundant (Acts 4:33)
- Our standing (Romans 5:2)
- Greater grace (James 4:6)
- Manifold (1 Peter 4:10)

WHY DO WE NEED GRACE?

- Life is filled with:
 - Trouble
 - Temptation
 - Suffering
 - Disappointment

“Our sufficiency is from God” (2 Corinthians 3:5)

We cannot sustain ourselves, we need divine grace daily

LESSON 1: GOD USES SUFFERING TO HUMBLE HIS CHILDREN

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7

A. The Nature of the Thorn

- Not a small irritation
- Greek: stake (deep, piercing pain)

B. Source of the Thorn: “Messenger of Satan”

- Not primarily physical illness
- Demonic activity through false apostles in Corinth

False teachers:

- Servants of Satan (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- Teaching doctrines of demons

The thorn = sustained demonic opposition through people

C. The Effect of the Thorn

“To buffet me” = repeated blows

Constant:

- Emotional pain
- Spiritual pressure
- Relational wounds

Not occasional suffering; relentless assault

D. The Purpose

- “To keep me from exalting myself”

God uses suffering to produce humility praise.

LESSON 2: GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS REMOVE SUFFERING; HE PROVIDES GRACE | 2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-9

A. Paul's Prayer

- Earnest, desperate, repeated
- Even Paul desired relief

B. God's Answer

- Not removal
- Not reduction

“My grace is sufficient for you”

C. Meaning of “Sufficient”

- Fully enough
- Completely adequate

Grace replaces deliverance with dependence

D. Key Truth

- We pray: “Take it away”
- God answers: “I will sustain you through it”

Grace = not subtraction of pain, but addition of strength

E. Important Insight

Prayer must end with hearing the Word of God

- Not just speaking to God
- But receiving His answer”
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LESSON 3: GOD’S POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS | 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

A. The Divine Principle

- Power is perfected in weakness
- Weakness is the platform for God's power

B. The Great Reversal

- Paul moves from:
 - Asking for removal
 - to boasting in weakness
- Weakness becomes an advantage

C. The Purpose

“That the power of Christ may rest upon me”

Connection: 2 Corinthians 4:7

- We are earthen vessels
- Christ's power is the treasure

Weak vessel → reveals divine power

D. The Scope of Weakness

Paul embraces:

- Weaknesses
- Insults

- Distresses
- Persecutions
- Difficulties

All for Christ's sake

E. The Paradox

“When I am weak, then I am strong”

Dependence releases divine strength

CONCLUSION: FROM THORN TO THRONE

2 Corinthians 4:17

Light affliction → eternal weight of glory

Romans 8:18

Present suffering ≠ future glory

Revelation 21:4

No more pain, no more tears

Final Truth: The weakness is momentary... but the power of Christ is forever

ACTION STEPS

1. **Identify your “thorn”:** Where is God humbling you?
2. **Stop resisting the process:** Accept God's purpose in suffering
3. **Shift your prayer:** From “remove this” → to “sustain me”
4. **Depend on grace daily:** Not your strength, but His supply
5. **Embrace weakness:** Let Christ's power be seen
6. **Fix your eyes on eternity:** Live beyond the present moment

PRAYER POINTS

1. Prayer for Humility:

“Lord, remove every trace of pride in me and teach me to walk in true humility before You.”

2. Prayer for Grace in Weakness:

“Father, when I feel weak, remind me that Your grace is sufficient and Your strength is made perfect in me.”

3. Prayer for Endurance in Suffering:

“Lord, give me strength to endure what You have allowed without losing faith or hope.”

4. Prayer for Dependence on God:

“Father, strip away my self-reliance and teach me to depend fully on Your grace.”

5. Prayer for Eternal Focus:

“Lord, help me to see beyond this moment and live with my eyes fixed on eternity.”