

GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT AUG 12, 2018

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Paul said

“I was given 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. **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. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Brethren, as Saul, Paul was a persecutor of Christians

Acts 22:4

I persecuted this Way even to the death, detaining both men and women and throwing them into prison,

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In Philippians 3, Paul said:

4If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness under the Law, faultless.

Brethren, by Paul's training and experience, what he boasted in was "righteousness under the Law, for which he is faultless."

And under the law, one's operations/confidence are all in the flesh. So he was given a thorn in his flesh, he felt very weakened and prayed for God to remove it. **But the thorn was intended to teach him a lesson that as a Christian his confidence should not be in the flesh but in the Lord and his righteousness should not be in the law but in Christ.**

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But with God telling Paul “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness**”, Paul began to re-evaluate his focus

Philippians 3

7But whatever was an asset to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. **8**More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9**and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith.** **10**I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, **11**and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

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Brethren, so long as our righteousness is not from the Law, but righteousness from God on the basis of faith, God's grace will abound.

Galatians 5:18 says "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law."

Romans 6: 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

This is not because the law is not important but because the law of the Spirit supersedes the law of the flesh

Bible records a number of people who though weak, have leveraged God's grace to do powerful things.

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How do we get God's grace:

Romans 5:21 “just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness, to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

With God's grace we can do great things

Acts 6: 8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Ephesians 4:

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

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2 Peter 1:2

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:14

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 11:6 shows that Grace enables good works

6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

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People who Excelled By Grace

1. *Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. Genesis 6:22*

2. Nehemiah working by grace replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”

Nehemiah 2:20

3. Joseph said: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20

4. Daniel in the lions den

5. Joseph was lifted from the prison to be Prime Minister

Elijah stopped the rain because of grace

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Conclusion

Titus 2:

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. God backs our actions with His power.

¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

2018 PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray over the message of today. Ask God to give us every wisdom required to focus on His grace and power.
2. Pray that KCM will continue to fulfil its mandate as the house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7), extending God's love to all the nations.
3. Prayer for the Leadership of Nations ...
 - a. To focus on God's grace and God's power
 - b. Leaders to be humble in leadership and commit to meeting the needs of citizens
4. Commit Troubles/Wars in nations into God's hands and ask God to make environments safe for people to freely serve God.
5. Ask God to please forgive our sins & heal our land (2 Chro 7:13-18).
6. Pray that God enables Minsters, Ministries, Missionaries and Missions to give the fruit of life.
7. For Marriages to be of God, Children to fear God, families to be together
8. Pray for Members of the fellowship – to lean on the grace of God
- 9 Needs in fellowship & and any special request we have not covered
10. Ask for God's favour and grace this week and pray for next Sunday fellowship.

