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

*2 Cor. 12:9b 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.*

Page 1: groan; wait;

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Finding Grace in Suffering

The Life and Ministry of Paul—part 4

July 17, 2016

Facing suffering: _____ inwardly; _____ eagerly.

Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

*Romans 8:23 Not only so, but **we ourselves**, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

2 Corinthians! Auto-biographical insight into Paul's soul

*2 Corinthians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

2 Corinthians 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow

over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

■ 2 Cor. 1:8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.

■ 2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

How to think about suffering

■ 2 Corinthians 6:4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

2 Cor. 6:6 ... in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;
¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

2 Corinthians 12:1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.

■ ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows.

³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows--

⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

■ 2 Cor. 12:7 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.

■ Grace Sufficient for You

2 Corinthians 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
