

I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. **1Peter 5:12**

## Grace is Sufficient

Doy Moyer

### Store In My Heart

#### Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

We would each do well to follow the example of Ezra. While we do not teach physical Israel any more than we need to teach everyone else, we do have an obligation to study, practice, and to teach the law of the Lord.

The example of Ezra in setting his heart to study and practice is as important as his example to teach. Ezra did not study just so he could tell others what they should do. He studied so that he would know what to do and his heart was just as focused on putting that knowledge into practice in his life as it was on teaching others. He understood that we will never be good at helping others do right unless we are doing right in our own actions.

Paul describes certain visions and revelations that were beyond his understanding (**2Corinthians 12**). He then spoke of what he calls a *“thorn in the flesh,”* given to him to keep him from becoming conceited. He implored the Lord three times that this thorn would be removed from him. Whatever it was, and we do not know, Paul apparently thought it was keeping him from being able to do the work that he wanted to do. One might expect that the Lord would have removed this thorn, but Paul came to realize that it was necessary to keep him humble. The Lord's answer is intriguing: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness”* (**2Corinthians 12:9**). Paul did not need to be perfect in body to accomplish what the Lord desired.

The sufficiency of the Lord's grace is difficult to grasp, yet it is a concept that the child of God must accept. Failing to recognize the sufficiency of God's grace, we may find ourselves proud and arrogant in the face of God. Yet remember that God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble (**1Peter 5:5**). The recognition of the grace of God on our part is a confession of our need to be humble. Think, then, about a handful of areas in which we need to be thankful in our acknowledgement of the sufficiency of God's grace.

**Grace is sufficient for life.** We are given life by God: “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” God did not have to make us, but by His grace He gives us life and breath and all things. We must not live as if we made ourselves, but rather live for Him who gave us life in the first place. By grace, we live.

**Grace is sufficient for God's revelation.** The common problem of humanity is sin, and the consequences of sin are devastating. What can be done about this? Only God can tell us His plans. God was not content to let us die in our sins, but through love and grace He has revealed His mind so that we may know His will and be reconciled to



Him. God did not have to tell us anything, and He would have been perfectly just to judge us. But by His grace, we can *“understand the things freely given us by God”* (**1Corinthians 2:9**).

Grace is sufficient for salvation and hope. The revelation of God's will includes His desire for our salvation from sin (**1Timothy 2:4**). Scripture shows that salvation cannot be earned, *“for by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). This gift of salvation, in turn, provides us with the hope of eternal life. Paul tied hope and grace together when he wrote of *“the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth”* (**Colossians 1:5-6**). Salvation and hope flow from God's grace.

**Grace is sufficient for handling suffering.** This is the context in which Paul writes about his desire to be relieved of the thorn. Perhaps, in our suffering, we feel that we are being held back from all that we might otherwise accomplish. Would it not be in the Lord's interest to take these trials away and let us meet our full potential? What we may be failing to see is that our potential is met in the context of our suffering. Paul's influence may indeed be greater because he suffered, and he learned that strength was gained through his weakness. God's grace is sufficient for suffering as it teaches us to rely on Him and not ourselves. If we don't recognize our weaknesses, we won't see the Lord's grace as sufficient; when we think we are strong, grace may seem unnecessary.

**Grace is sufficient for facing death.** Death can induce fear in our hearts because we do not know what to expect. But by God's grace through Christ sharing in flesh and blood, He destroyed the one who has power of death and delivered *“all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery”* (**Hebrews 2:14-15**). By the Lord's grace, we can face death without the fear.

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”* This needs to serve as a continual reminder of our need to trust the One who has the power over all life and death. Praise the Lord for His grace!

## For Our Information

### Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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### Find Us Online

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**Gloria Hurst** feels pretty good but gets tired very easily. She will have more test to narrow down her treatment, but will have at least 5 radiation treatments.

**Paula Laubach** will have the intensive MRI on her spine Tuesday, and will see a neurosurgeon next week.

**Sue Soliday** had another chiropractor visit last week to help her.

**Jim Soliday** is feeling better.

**Vickie McNeas** is dealing with more swelling in her foot.

**Ruben Keisler** has been dealing with some difficult asthma over the past few weeks. He is also having some stability issues.

**Dan Henderson** has a throat scope scheduled for Friday morning.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 12**. Wednesday - **2Peter 1**.

Dan has login information for the building wifi network.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

