

# SUFFICIENT GRACE

**TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 12: 7 – 10**

**THEME: GRACE**

## I. GRACE: IT HAS TOUCHED US ALL

All of us who have excepted Christ as Savior, have experienced God's wonderful grace.

**Story:** "But what makes Christianity different from all the other religions of the world? Years ago that very question was discussed at a conference. Some of the participants argued that Christianity is unique in teaching that God became man. But someone objected, saying that other religions teach somewhere the same doctrines. What about the resurrection? No, it was argued, other faiths believe that the dead rise again. The discussion grew heated. C.S. Lewis, a strong defender of Christianity, came in late, sat down, and asked, "What's the fuss about?" When he learned that it was a debate about the uniqueness of Christianity, he immediately commented "*Oh, That's easy. It's grace.*"

*We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
John 1:14a NIV

**Note:** But grace, this wonderful gift can be hindered, how?

## II. HINDERED GRACE

**Note:** The flow of grace can be hindered in our life by what I call:

### 1. Trained Grace

a. I'm sure we have all heard the definitions of grace:

1. **"God's unmerited favor; An act of kindness, courtesy, or clemency."**

2. **Enabling Grace is the power of God made available to meet all our needs.**

b. **But Grace is not simply a definition, a commodity or a power. Grace is a person.**

**Grace comes by relationship, not by reason.**

**Grace hides from our intellect because Grace is more at home in the heart than in my head.**

c. True grace is grace you can figure out, rector brain around it, believing to the realm of your intellect, can control it, manipulate it and figure it out.

d. But tamed Grace is a limited Grace. Why?

Because the moment you can define it, control it or figure it out you have just limited it.

## 2. Disciplined Grace

There is no one here today that was more disciplined, hard-working, and obedient to the Christian faith than Paul. In fact, 2 Corinthians 11: 16 – 12: 7 Paul lays out all his spiritual accomplishments, disciplines, and sufferings. But what he is saying, is he learned through this experience none of those things would enable him to do what he was incapable of doing himself.

If anything, living by your discipline, hard work, and obedience to Christian standards will eventually drain us of our joy and strength. **Until the conqueror becomes the conquered.**

Disciplined Grace in reality is no grace at all. Disciplined Grace is simply us acting as an imposter, a counterfeit to true grace, attempting to do the impossible – be God.

**Question:** How do we position ourselves for **grace now**?

### III. SUFFICIENT GRACE, NOW

#### 1. Believe there is Sufficient Grace beyond Saving Grace.

*We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you **not to receive the grace of God in vain.** For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NKJV

Far too often many Christians believe that there is only saving grace.

But the book of Acts chronicles many acts of grace after salvation.

#### 2. Brokenness and humility draws on God's Sufficient Grace.

Brokenness and humility draws on God's sufficient Grace the way the south pole of a magnet draws on the north pole of a magnet.

Pride, anti-dependence, valuing your strength and ability will oppose the grace of God the way two north poles or two south poles repel one another on a magnet..

**Grace runs toward weakness, it embraces frailty; grace welcomes what others disdain!**

**Peter said it best because he knew grace:** *"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

1 Peter 5:5 NIV

#### 3. Faith is the appropriator of Sufficient Grace.

**Disclaimer:** What I'm about to say I cannot prove to be theologically correct. It is simply a personal belief of my own.

Grace is not something that can be stored in our lives. (See Manna)

Grace is not a commodity, but a person.

*Sufficient* - enough, satisfactory. ( It didn't say more than enough.).

Because most of us are better acquainted with the lesser god of ourselves rather than the one true God, we easily move into doing things ourselves, even the impossible.

But like Paul, we soon realize we cannot do everything ourselves.

Like manna, this keeps us coming back for more.

Faith becomes the appropriator of the grace I need.

Faith will draw on the sufficient grace we need. And

**Conclusion:** Someone said there are 70 sextillion (7 followed by 22 zeros) stars in the known universe.

Someone also said there are seven quintillion five hundred quadrillion grains of sand in the world.  
7,500,000,000,000,000,000

Even if these answers are incorrect, here's my point: God's grace is bigger than all these numbers. And when the stars burn out and the grains of sand are gone, God's grace is just beginning.