



Greater Grace Pt 6: The Empowerment to be Complete (Continued)

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Sunday Sermon – 11/16/2025

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

What is Grace?

God's grace is His unmerited favor and empowerment that makes available to us what we do not deserve.

Grace (God's Favor and empowerment) and faith are gifts from God, not rewards earned through human effort.

The Apostle Paul Operating in Greater Grace.

Our text says that Paul was given a thorn in the flesh by Satan due to the anointing on his life that gave him great revelation and the working of miracles.

Paul says this **"thorn in the flesh"** was **"a messenger of Satan"** sent to hinder Paul from spreading the gospel.

This **messenger of Satan**, a fallen angel, was assigned to instigate challenges through various people, places, and things, including nature.

Despite these severe challenges, his resilience and dedication remained strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7 "...a thorn in the flesh was *given* to me, The word **"given"** in Greek can also mean to "permit or allow".

God had allowed Paul to be hindered in this way, But why?

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT), even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So, to keep me from becoming proud, I was given (allowed to have) a thorn in my flesh, a messenger (A fallen angel) *from* Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

The apostle Paul turned to God about these challenges because he understood that he was on a mission from God.

God allowed Satan to hinder Paul's mission of sharing the gospel due to the significance of Paul's assignment and the great anointing on his life.



Greater Grace The Empowerment to be Complete

Ephesians 1:7-8 In Him we have **Redemption** (*Redemption refers to being freed from the power and consequences of sin*). **through His blood**, (*the blood of Jesus is the evidence of His sinless life, a perfect and pure sacrifice for the sins of humanity*) **the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace** **8** which **He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,**

The Greek word for "**grace**," "charis," means a free gift or undeserved bounty, referring to God's favor given to those who don't deserve it.

Grace is also God's empowerment, renewing and sustaining individuals with His power, which can prevent failures and secure their spiritual growth and success.

In **Ephesians 1:7-8**, God's grace gives us redemption and forgiveness. These gifts come with many benefits, regardless of our actions or goodness.

God's grace is rich. The Greek word for "**riches**" (ploutos) literally means material prosperity, wealth, or riches.

It refers to an abundance of possessions exceeding the norm of a particular society.

When satan, sin and temptation arise to challenge us, we can be certain that grace will prevail even more powerfully, enabling us to rise above and become whole. Greater grace empowers us to confront and overcome any adversary and adversity, ensuring that we remain steadfast and complete in our journey.

Romans 5:20-21 (Amplified Bible) But then Law came in, [only] to expand and increase the trespass [making it more apparent and exciting opposition]. But where sin increased and abounded, grace (God's unmerited favor) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded, 21 So that, [just] as sin has reigned in death, [so] grace (His unearned and undeserved favor) might reign also through righteousness (right standing with God) which issues in eternal life through Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) our Lord.

The old covenant, the law established specific commands that individuals were required to follow to attain righteousness. In contrast, the new covenant operates on the principle of grace, which assures us that God's promises are already given to us rather than being contingent on our actions.

God allowed this trouble to keep Paul from walking in pride and to keep him on his knees in prayer.

2 Corinthians 12:8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.

We must recognize that God knows us and our situation better than we know ourselves.

Psalms 139:1-6 O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!



God understood that self-pride could hinder or prevent Paul from accomplishing his mission more than a demonic force could.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

2 Corinthians 12:8 Each time he said, "My grace (God's unmerited favor and empowerment) is all you need. My power (God's grace of empowerment) works best in weakness."

Despite the obstacles, challenges, and hardships Paul faced, he remained successful in fulfilling the calling God had placed on his life.

If we allow it, greater grace will have an awesome impact on our lives as well.

9...So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

When Paul received this profound revelation from God, he embraced it wholeheartedly. Not only did he accept the message, but he also found joy in the new perspective it brought to his life.

There is a unique empowerment that comes from grace that can only rest upon us when we are going through certain challenges and trials in life.

Greater grace is the empowerment that enables us to accomplish extraordinary things even in the face of extreme circumstances.

Remember, we said that it takes faith to inquire what grace has afforded us.

James 1:2-4 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Grace allows a perfect God to work on imperfect people with the Goal of making them complete.

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Grace provides God the opportunity to transform us into what He has predestined us to be. It allows God to work on us despite all our shortcomings to fulfill His purpose for us.

1 Corinthians 15:10-11 But by the grace of God I am what I am,

Satan assigned the fallen angel to hinder the mission. But by making Paul's journey difficult, Paul would ultimately become complete, and the mission would still be fulfilled.

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Jesus Is Lord ~ Assembly of Love
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Not only does God want you to complete the work he has assigned to us, but He also uses that work to help complete us.

Completeness is a process described in the combination of these two scriptures.

Romans 1:17 ("the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith")

2 Cor. 3:18 ("being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another").

As we complete our work for Him, He is completing a work in us.

Corinthians 12:10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.