



Greater Grace PT 4 - God's Empowerment for Everyday Living Cont...

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Sunday Sermon – 11/2/2025

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.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Grace makes eternal, abundant life available for all of mankind!

Because of the sinful state of humanity, mankind does not deserve the great riches that God created us to have. We don't deserve to be who God created us to be, to do what He created us to do, or to have all the good and perfect gifts He promised. *We don't deserve any of these things.*

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But while humanity was in our sinful state, God imputed grace to us so that we could use our faith to receive things we don't deserve. **Ephesians 2:4-5**, But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),...

*Grace makes eternal, abundant life available, as stated in **John 10:10**.*

Grace not only affords us the freedom to escape death and destruction but also gives us the opportunity to obtain all that Jesus won for us in His victory through His finished work.

The Empowerment of Grace

The empowerment of God's grace is the divine enablement that gives believers the strength to live according to faith, overcome challenges, and fulfill their God-given purpose.

This empowerment from God is a gift, not earned through human effort. It works through faith. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.



Grace enables us to exceed our natural capabilities and to live a transformed life, beyond just eternal existence in heaven.

Grace empowers individuals to achieve what they cannot on their own, enabling them to live a holy life, overcome past behaviors, handle difficult relationships, and attain finer things in life.

Grace and Faith can be multiplied

Since grace works through faith, to receive greater grace, we also have to increase in faith.

Faith-Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith.

Here we see the apostles recognizing that faith could increase.

Grace-2 Peter 1:2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

The gift of grace can be multiplied to afford us greater spiritual nourishment and physical sustenance.

Both grace and faith increase through the knowledge of Father God and Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:8-10 (ERV) ... but now I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Christ, I lost all these things, and now I know that they are all worthless trash. All I want now is Christ. 9 I want to belong to him. In Christ I am right with God, but my being right does not come from following the law. It comes from God through faith. God uses my faith in Christ to make me right with him. 10 All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him from death.

Paul understood that greater in life came through the knowledge of the Father and the Son. If we're going to walk in greater grace, then we're going to have to have a greater knowledge of who Yahweh the triune God is.

Three ways that deepen our knowledge of God:

1. Common knowledge, Studying Scripture: Engaging with the Bible is essential for understanding God's nature and teachings. Regular hearing, reading, and meditation on His Word will deepen our insights into who He is.

2. Revelation knowledge, Listening to the Holy Spirit: Being receptive to the Holy Spirit's voice, we can listen with our inner ear for insights that deepen our understanding of and relationship with God.

3. Experiential knowledge, Trusting in God: Noticing God in your daily life is important. Acknowledging and trusting Him day to day helps you feel His presence and strengthens your understanding of His character, helping you know who Yahweh, the triune God, is.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.



God will guide not only your physical path but also your thinking and reasoning, helping you perceive life's challenges and opportunities accurately.

The Apostle Paul Operating in Greater Grace.

Our text says Paul was given a thorn in the flesh due to his significant influence in spreading the gospel, in working miracles, and in revealing the connection between the Old and New Testaments.

Paul experienced profound revelations that seemed to surpass the understanding of others in the church, except for the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The devil realized that once this revelation was taught and shared globally, his Kingdom would be even more significantly endangered.

One of the main reasons we face the challenges we do in life is because of the calling and anointing on our lives. The enemy is aware that as we strive to reach our full potential in Christ and advance His Kingdom, he stands no chance.

But the enemy still hasn't figured out that as we depend on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by allowing faith and grace to work and grow in us, we're an even greater threat to him and his Kingdom.

“...a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan”.

This word “**messenger**” in the Greek is the word “**Aggelos**”; A messenger, one who is sent in order to announce, teach, perform, or explore anything. This is the same word that translates to "angel." This messenger, however, was a fallen angel.

The word for “**thorn**” here in the Greek is “**Skolops**”. Literal meaning: A sharp, pointed piece of wood, such as a stake, pole, or thorn.

Figurative meaning: A constant source of trouble, a bodily affliction, or an irritating annoyance.

In Greek, the phrase translated “**of satan**” in the (KJV) is originally written just satan. Most modern Scholars and theologians agree that instead of reading “**of satan**”, it should be “**from satan**”. ***The New Living Translation interprets it that way.***

Satan issued a directive against Paul to create significant obstacles in his life, to hinder his assignment, and to try to keep him from walking in his purpose.

Paul talks about these obstacles and challenges in **2 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NLT)** **23 ... I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. 24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.**

To carry out satan’s directive, a fallen angel was assigned to follow him, instigating challenges through various people and nature. *Satan’s ultimate goal was to influence these individuals to eliminate Paul if possible.*



2 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT) I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.

The issue Paul faced was not necessarily a physical ailment; rather, the "**thorn in his flesh**" was a fallen angel sent by Satan. *This demonic being was sent to create turmoil through the people he encountered and interacted with while doing what God had assigned him to do..*

Rick Renner, Pastor and Greek Scholar, says this quote, "**thorn in his flesh,**" is a command to put a person's head on a stake.

The devil was out to get Paul whether it was through manipulating nature or even having those who claim to be his friends, and fellow believers betray him.

The devil assigned an assassin to stop Paul due to his growing influence and anointing from the Holy Spirit. To disrupt his mission, Satan sent one of his followers to create trouble for Paul wherever he went.

So, we see that Paul knew what his thorn in the flesh was: a messenger from Satan assigned to him to stir up trouble among the people he encountered.

This "thorn in the flesh," "this fallen angel, also influences nature to try to work against him as well. **"Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea..."**