



Greater Grace Pt 5: The Empowerment to be Complete!

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Sunday Sermon – 11/9/2025

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 makes eternal, abundant life available to all who want it.

Grace not only affords us eternal, abundant life, but also empowers us with what we need to obtain all that Jesus made available for us.

The Empowerment of Grace

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

Grace 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.

Both grace and faith increase through the knowledge of Father God and Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:8-10, 2 Peter 1:2.**

If we're going to walk in greater grace and faith, 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:**
- 2. Revelation knowledge, Listening for and to the Holy Spirit:**
- 3. Experiential knowledge, Trusting God in every situation:**



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 our physical path but also our thinking and reasoning, leading us to perceive life's challenges and opportunities accurately.

The Apostle Paul Operating in Greater Grace.

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.

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

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

Satan deployed an agent specifically designed to throw obstacles in Paul's path and prevent him from carrying it out.

Paul faced numerous intense trials and adversities, as described in **2 Corinthians 11:23-25. He endured hard labor, imprisonment, beatings, stoning, and multiple shipwrecks.**

Despite challenges, Paul remained strong.

The text continues with **2 Corinthians 11:26**, highlighting the various dangers Paul encountered from people, including **threats from both Jews and Gentiles, as well as from those falsely claiming to be believers.**

This fallen angel was assigned to follow him, instigating challenges through various people and nature.

This **“thorn in the flesh”** that Paul faced was not a physical ailment but a **“fallen Angel sent from Satan”** to try to stop his mission. This Angel, however, could have caused a physical ailment

We fight invisible demonic forces as well!

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Power afforded by Grace) 11 Put on the full armor of God (Spiritual invisible armament provided by grace) so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. *The origin of all of our struggles originates in the unseen realm.*

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. 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.

The reason God allowed Satan to be somewhat successful in hindering Paul's mission of sharing the gospel of the Kingdom of God was because of Paul's assignment and the great anointing on his life.

Greater Grace The empowerment to be complete

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

God allowed this trouble to keep him from walking in pride and to keep him on his knees in prayer. 2

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!

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.

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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 gives God the opportunity to transform us into what He predestined us to be.

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.

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.

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.

We must recognize that God knows us 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!