

June 27, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

2 Cor. 12:9-10 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NIV)

We have all been in situations where the answer we heard was not what we wanted to hear. I recall a few years back, one of my close friends went to the doctor with some stomach issues and found out that he had stage IV colon cancer. The next few years of his life were difficult to say the least. A constant barrage of chemotherapy and blood draws. His body finally succumbed to the cancer, and he went home to be with the LORD. The whole time, we were praying for healing. I knew God could do it. I didn't want my friend to go home yet. His wife needed him. His son needed him. I needed him. But heaven needed him more. And instead of getting the healing that we wished for, he received the ultimate healing that the LORD had in store for him. In the same way, Paul had been praying for the LORD to take away this 'thorn in his flesh.' We are not told exactly what that was. There has been much speculation but suffice it to say that it was something that was very uncomfortable for Paul. He prayed for the LORD to remove it. The LORD did not. What do we do when what we pray for is not what the LORD does? We have to realize and adjust to the fact that He always knows best. He knows exactly what we need. And it is not always what we think it is. The LORD sees the whole picture. He has all things in His purview. He will always do what is best. Instead of removing the thorn, God made Paul stronger through bearing the burden. He had to trust that God's grace is sufficient to meet his every need. Someone once said, 'we don't believe God's grace is sufficient until we believe we are insufficient.' That's why Paul's admission that when he was weak, then he was strong is so perfect. It is not until we come to the end of ourselves that we realize that all we need is all of Him. Herein lies one of the major keys of unlocking a continual life of abundance. Trusting in God completely for everything, all the time!

Dear LORD, thank You for the trials in our lives because it shows us Your victories. We can trust that Your ways are higher than our ways, and Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. We praise You and trust in You alone. In Jesus Name, Amen