

The Sufficiency Of God's Grace And Power

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Introduction

Isn't the parachute enough?

God Says 'No' So That Paul Might Learn That God's Grace Is Sufficient

i) Paul continues to defend his leadership and ministry! vv.1-6

There's nothing to be gained from boasting in his spiritual experience ...

Paul had many visions and revelations from God but refuses to parade them!
cf. Acts 9:12; 16:9-10; 18:9-10; 22:17-21; 23:11; 27:23-24

ii) Paul will boast only in his weakness vv.5, 7b-9 cf. 2 Cor.11:23-30

Brutalized by a 3-inch unbearable thorn for 14 years!

Before I can learn the sufficiency of God's grace, I must learn the insufficiency of self!

God's Grace And Power Is Sufficient For Paul In His Weakness

- i) God's 'sufficient' grace and power is found in the gospel of Christ crucified v.9
cf. 2 Cor.13:4; 2 Cor.1:8-9; 2 Cor.4:7-14

At the cross we find God's grace and power ... Jesus' death and resurrection ...

*No guilt in life, no fear in death — This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home — Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

- ii) Our weaknesses are opportunities to make much of the grace and power of the gospel!
v.10

Conclusion

'be of good cheer (be strong) my brother, for I feel the bottom, I feel the ground, and it is sound, it is firm.' ~Mr Hopeful in *The Pilgrim's Progress*