

July 3, 2022
II Corinthians 12:1-10
"A GODLY PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

God's grace is sufficient to get His children through the hard times. God gives His grace in the midst of our suffering, His power is perfected in our weakness. What is grace, God's grace? The gospel is the good news of God's grace to mankind. What does God's grace look like in our lives, at least in part?

Grace is: An essential part of God's character.

God's favor toward the unworthy

God forgiving us of our sin.

God's blessing upon us.

God's unmerited favor for the sinner.

A gift, see [Ephesians 4:7](#).

A gift, not a loan.

A gift from God that one does not deserve but receives anyway.

A gift to all who believe bought and paid in full by Jesus' blood.

Costly, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." ([II Cor. 8:9](#))

Completely unmerited, the recipient does absolutely nothing to receive it.

Undeserved by all who receive it, see [Romans 5:8-10](#).

Able to give us access to the throne of God, see [Hebrews 4:16](#).

Able to grant believers immeasurable spiritual riches through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus, see [Ephesians 2:7](#).

The reason behind our every deliverance, see [Hebrews 4:16](#).

Able to give the Christian strength, see [II Timothy 2:1](#).

Greater than our sin, see [Romans 5:20](#).

Too wonderful for words, see [II Cor. 9:14-15](#).

"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift-not from works, so that no one can boast." [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) CSB.

First heaven-our atmosphere, second-space, third-the abode of God: heaven, paradise.

Divine power is best displayed against the backdrop of weakness. By this, God alone is praised. *David K. Lowery*

All visions are revelations but not all revelations are visions. A vision is always seen, a revelation may be either seen or perceived in some way. *Murray J. Harris*

Satan often is used by God as His agent for the infliction of disciplinary illness, for example: Job, Paul, (Hymenaeus, and Alexander, see [I Timothy 1:20](#)).

When bad things happen to good people remember, God is the one who has brought it on and its final result is for good. Remember, **God is never the author of sin**, however, God can and will use even Satan or an evil king to accomplish His will.

Paul's thorn drew him closer to God, it did not turn him away from God with grumbling and doubt. God's answer simply was, NO. Adversity brings closer to God or drives the recipient away; suffering makes one bitter or better, spiritually speaking. Meditate on [Romans 8:26-30](#).

Application:

Grace and power of God are demonstrated beautifully in our weaknesses. Christians are in a great position to be effective for God when they are fresh out of answers, confidence, strength, and see no way out. When I am weak, then I am strong through His grace and strength. Proper perspective brings about contentment and usefulness to the Lord. Consider [James 1:2-4](#). *John MacArthur*

“Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” *Dr. D. A. Carson*

“Look, the days are coming—this is the declaration of the Lord God—when I will send famine through the land: not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” **Amos 8:11** CSB.

As men and women of God let’s live by grace, let’s live by the Word! “Jesus answered, It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” **Matthew 4:4** NIV.