



*God's Grace*  
IN A

**LEMON-FILLED  
WORLD**

by Aretta Gordish



*God's Grace*  
IN A  
**LEMON-FILLED  
WORLD**

by Aretta Gordish

(The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)  
Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of  
Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights  
reserved.

Original devotions written by Aretta Gordish.  
Copyright© 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary  
League. All rights reserved.

*lwml.org*



*To:*

*From:*

*Date:*

## INTRODUCTION

In the early 1900s writer and philosopher Elbert Hubbard wrote, “A genius is a man who takes the lemons that Fate hands him and starts a lemonade-stand with them.” Over the years, this phrase that promotes optimism in the face of adversity has been shortened to simply, “When Life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

Yes, life is full of lemons and each and every one of us has been hit with one or more. Maybe your lemon is a cancer diagnosis or a chronic disease. For some it may be the loss of a loved one or loss of a job. For others it might be loneliness or depression. Regardless, finding reason to be optimistic might be impossible to do.

During times of great suffering, it might be more helpful to find grace instead of trying to make lemonade. Grace is freely given by a loving God who truly cares for us. His grace sustains us and gives us strength, and most assuredly gives us hope that one day there will be no more lemons being thrown at us.

**Aretta Gordish**



# Sufficient Grace

***So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me***  
(2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

“The MRI shows that you have a brain tumor,” the doctor informed me with compassion in his voice. Life had thrown a doozy of a lemon at me, and for a while, I was reeling from it.

Once my mind was done spinning, I decided to make the old proverbial phrase “When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade” my motto.

The problem was, I was not sure how to make lemonade. How does one go about sweetening the sour of a brain tumor?

In today's reading, Paul was not immune to lemons either. He prayed three times that God would rid him of what he describes as a thorn in his flesh. That does indeed sound like a sour lemon. We do not know if God ever took away this thorn, but we do know that he was able to make something even better than lemonade from it. He was given grace, sufficient grace, so that even in his weakness, Christ's power rested upon him.

God's provision of grace was not just for Paul. Grace is for each of us no matter what our trials — cancer, diabetes, arthritis, heart problems, loss of a loved one, depression, or loneliness. Life is full of lemons, but God is full of grace and gives it freely, refreshing us much like a tall glass of cold lemonade on a hot summer day!

With the Holy Spirit's help, we can move up to the next level, say good-bye to the childish ways, and progress to a more mature spiritual life in Christ.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as I turn to You in my weakness, I thank you for giving me sufficient grace. May Your power rest upon me, giving me strength to press forward. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.