

“From Confusion to Clarity”

Mount of Olives | September 13, 2026 | 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, everything in our world and in our lives is imperfect. Our behavior is regularly less than impressive; our relationships are often not ideal, and our health is neither perfect nor eternal. Oh, how grateful we are for Your perfect grace. Help us to value it so much that we can't resist sharing it with others, both in our words and in our actions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Message Notes

Romans 7:14-20

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

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Study Questions – Read 2nd Corinthians 12:1-11

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. Have you ever experienced a moment when something you considered a weakness actually turned out to be a strength? Describe the situation. What happened?
2. If you could experience one incredible spiritual experience from the Bible firsthand, what would you choose and why?

3. Why do you think people sometimes have a hard time admitting their weaknesses or asking for help?

Based on 2nd Corinthians 12:1-11, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read 2nd Corinthians 12:1-11, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?

3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Based on verses 1-4, why do you think Paul was reluctant to boast about this extraordinary spiritual experience? What does that tell us about true spiritual maturity?

2. Read verses 5–6. Paul says he could boast about this experience, but instead he chooses to boast about his weaknesses. Why would Paul make that choice?

3. In verse 7, Paul says he was given a “thorn in the flesh.” What do you think Paul means by this phrase? What do you think the thorn might represent?

4. Verse 7 says the thorn was given to Paul “to keep me from becoming conceited.” What connection does Paul make between extraordinary spiritual experiences and the danger of pride?

5. Read verse 8. Paul says, “Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.” What does this teach us about Paul's prayer life and about bringing persistent requests to God?

6. Read verse 9 carefully. What exactly does Jesus say to Paul?

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

What does it mean for God's grace to be “sufficient”?

7. Why do you think God sometimes answers our prayers by changing our circumstances, while at other times He gives us grace to endure the circumstances?

8. Paul says, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses.” Why would someone actually *gladly* talk about his weaknesses?

9. What does Paul mean when he says, “When I am weak, then I am strong” (v. 10)? How can weakness become a place where God's power is most clearly demonstrated?

10. Looking at verses 1–11 as a whole, what does this passage teach us about the relationship between human weakness, God's grace, and God's power?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What is your “thorn in the flesh”? Without sharing anything you're uncomfortable sharing, what is one ongoing weakness, struggle, limitation, or circumstance that causes you to depend more deeply on God?

2. How do you typically respond to weakness? Do you tend to hide it, fight it, become frustrated by it, ask others for help, or bring it honestly to God? What might Paul teach you about responding differently?

3. Where might pride be getting in the way of depending on God? Are there areas of your life where you are relying more on your abilities, accomplishments, experience, or reputation than on God's grace?

4. What would it look like for you to live out “My grace is sufficient for you” this week? Think about a specific situation in your family, work, relationships, ministry, or personal life where you need to trust God's grace rather than simply trying harder.