

## **The Gift of Grace**

### **The Grace Solution**

#### **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

#### **Four Basic Types of Weaknesses**

1. Inability – an area of our lives where we are weak, but can grow in knowledge and ability
2. Iniquity – sin areas where we have weaknesses and tendencies either from our pasts or our parents’ and background
3. Infirmity – temporary physical illness or a permanent limitation
4. Inherent Weakness

#### **2 Corinthians 10:10**

“For his letters,” “they say “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak and his speech contemptible.”

#### **2 Corinthians 12:9**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

#### **Four Basic Ways People Deal with Weaknesses**

1. Defeated weakness
2. Deceptive weakness
3. Defiant weakness
4. Divine weakness

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**The Blessing of God’s Grace**

1. It’s all about God and it focuses on His goodness and not our own.
2. It allows us to get help when we need it – because when we need it the most, we deserve it the least.
3. It allows us to be honest about our weaknesses while living in victory.
4. It empowers us to minister grace to others and to lead them to freedom from condemnation.
5. It makes us depend upon God and build a relationship with Him – which is the reason He creates or allows certain weaknesses in us.