

2 Cor. 12:9

Sun. School

Title: Grace for Every  
Need

7-17-2022

Series: Transforming Truths

### 1. Introduction

a. Context: 2 Cor. 12:6-10

b. Corinth ancient city on Greek isthmus  
- wealthy from crossroads of trade

c. Corinth also known as center of  
pleasure seekers - lots disposable income

d. Apostle Paul appears to have natural  
inclination towards pride

- Paul highly educated in Greek  
thinking

- Paul highly educated in Jewish  
religious studies

e. But God chose timing of Paul's  
conversion - Acts 7:58; 8:1,3; 9:1-16

- God showed Paul's future service  
through weakness & suffering

### 2. Paul's Painful Thorn (vs. 7)

a. God showed Paul great prophetic  
revelations

- God requires truth in His people

- Paul wanted people to see him  
realistically (vs. 6)

b. Paul did not want this "thorn in  
the flesh" - he didn't like it

c. But God had a purpose

- God knew Paul <sup>him</sup>

~~- God did not want him exalted above  
measure" - put on a pedestal~~

- God did not want him put on a  
pedestal ("exalted beyond measure")



← God's grace sufficient

- Paul's strength

d. God's thorn

- first of the flesh - physical

- 2<sup>nd</sup> messenger of Satan - spiritual

- God's thorn specifically designed  
for each Christian

3. Paul's Persistent Prayer (vs. 8)
- Paul asks God for relief
    - from Paul's viewpoint, this was unbearable
  - Paul begged God to remove his thorn
    - he did not want it
  - Paul prayed 3 times before he got an answer

4. Paul's Painful Lessons (vs. 9)
- God answers Paul
    - God gives positive reason for Paul's thorn
    - And God did not remove His thorn
  - God's grace is sufficient
    - sufficient = enough
  - God's strength made perfect in weakness (human weakness)
    - human Christian reaches end of their strength & ability
    - God adds His power & strength for Christian's spiritual journey
    - perfect = complete
  - Acronym GRACE
    - G - God's R - Resource A - at C - Christ's E - Expense
    - \* Jesus Christ paid everything to give God's grace to Christian
      - Jesus died on the cross & buried
      - Jesus came alive from dead 3<sup>rd</sup> day
  - Paul wanted God's power to stay on him

5. Paul's New Perspective (vs. 10)
- Paul accepted God's thorn
  - Paul gloried (took pleasure) in God's thorn for Christ's sake
    - Paul wanted to stay in God's design
  - Paul experienced so many difficulties
    - weakness, needs, persecutions, distresses
  - Paul strong in God's grace when he is in weakness