

Grace Unraveled  
Sufficient Grace  
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

The tendency in cultural Christianity is to focus on the story of Jesus while minimizing the demands He places on those who desire to follow Him. Everyone loves a good, inspirational story and as long as the culture views the gospel this way, Christianity remains palatable. Grace and faith remain abstract “spiritual” concepts with no real application and salvation becomes a mechanism for experiencing your best life now.

1. It is foolish to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel
  - A. We should stick to what has been \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. We should \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus not ourselves
2. The grace of God is \_\_\_\_\_ in adversity
  - A. Weakness is a reality of \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Weakness is the work of Satan to \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Weakness is the work of God to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Weakness is a means to the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace
  - A. Satan’s purpose to \_\_\_\_\_ us
  - B. God’s purpose to \_\_\_\_\_ us
  - C. God’s purpose to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

The deepest need that you and I have in weakness and adversity is not quick relief, but the well-grounded confidence that what is happening to us is part of the greatest purpose of God in the universe—the glorification of the grace and power of his Son—the grace and power that bore him to the cross and kept him there until the work of love was done. That’s what God is building into our lives. That is the meaning of weakness, insults, hardships, persecution, calamity.

Reflection

Think back about your journey with Christ. What are some of the “high points” of your spirituality? Did you ever experience times when life was hard and you wondered why? What “thorns in the flesh” come to mind for you? Are you seeing them more as Satan’s purposes for destruction or are you thinking more in terms of God’s provision for saving? What needs to change in your way of thinking for you to begin embracing adversity as a means to grace?