

Tailor made Grace

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2 Corinthians 12:7-10 KJV

[7] And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8] For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.[9] And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

The word "grace" in biblical parlance can mean something as broad as describing the whole scope of God's activity toward man or as specific as describing one segment of that activity. There can be no grace where there is no God.

Ephesians 2:8

[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT OF GOD.

- **PowerPoint:** Grace is divine enablement through which a person performs with excellence his or her God given task.
- **PowerPoint:** Grace is a spiritual impartation that transforms the character of a believer into one that is Christlike in every expression.
- **PowerPoint:** Grace is an active personal principle & power, manifesting itself in our dealings with God and with man.
- **PowerPoint:** Grace is the communication of divine goodness by the in-working of the Holy Spirit through the inspiration of Him who is FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.
- **PowerPoint:** Grace is the static companion of faith. It is dynamic. It is tangible. Grace manifests itself ostensibly in life's greatest difficulties.

- **PowerPoint:** Grace is the power of God unto salvation which finds expression in specific gifts, activities and spheres of influence which are individualized according to God's purpose for each of our lives.

II. Five means through which Paul said the grace of God is revealed:

1. Infirmities = Astheneia

- A. want of strength, weakness, infirmity of the body
- B. feebleness of health or sickness of the soul
- C. want of strength and capacity requisite to understand a thing
- D. to bear trials and troubles

Psalm 77:7-11 KJV

[7] Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? 8] Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? 9] Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. 10] And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. 11] I will remember the works of the Lord : surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

2 Corinthians 11:30 KJV

[30] If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2. Reproaches = Hybris

- A. Repeated intentional insults and attacks on a person's character or integral worth

1 Peter 4:14 KJV

[14] If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye ; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

3. Necessities = Ananke

A. Life's unexpected calamities and tragedies which create great stress upon the mind and body.

B. Incidents and events beyond human control

Jeremiah 17:7-8 KJV

[7] Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. [8] For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. [14] Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

4. Persecutions + Diagmos

A. In any way whatever to harass, to trouble, to intimidate, to mistreat, on account of something or someone.

Matthew 5:10-12 KJV

[10] Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

5. Distresses = Stenochoria

- A. A narrow place
- B. Dire calamity
- C. Extreme affliction

Luke 21:25-28 KJV

[25] And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26] Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 28] And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 KJV

[9] And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- **PowerPoint:** The grace of God is Jesus!

Titus 2:11-13 KJV

[11] For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Psalms 34:17,19 KJV

[17] The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 19] Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

YOU WILL COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE AND WELL!!!