

Living The Extraordinary Life

2nd Corinthians 12:9

“You may have an issue but your issue doesn’t have to have dominion over you!”

In **2nd Corinthians**, Paul is writing and explaining to the church at Corinth his authenticity as a true apostle of Christ. The church at Corinth had been infiltrated by “false apostles” these men were claiming to be apostles of Christ but trying to discredit Paul in the process. Paul’s primary goal in this letter was to defend his ministry and call the church at Corinth to reconcile themselves back to one another. He does all of this from a doctrinal perspective, he kept in line with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

In versus 9 of chapter 12, we see Paul’s answer to a prayer that he prayed not once but three times. It is believed that the number three represents divine completeness. That means he prayed perfectly. Have you ever felt like you have prayed the perfect prayer and still didn’t get the answer you were hoping for? That’s exactly where Paul found himself in this moment. He states in verse 7 he was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan and he prayed a divine complete prayer and God’s answer was “My grace is sufficient for you”. Here Paul is this great man of God with the ability to heal others but finds he cannot heal or rid himself of this thorn.

What is grace? The primary function of grace is **power!** Many people have stop coming to church because there is no power to change. Why go to the doctor if he is not going to heal you or make you feel better? It’s the same idea concerning church. Why go to church if you are not going to experience a change in your life? Sure, you come to church and feel good for that hour but as soon as you leave you go home to the same misery and problems that drove you there in the first place. You may even come to church and are active in the church but your life hasn’t changed. You haven’t grown as an individual. You are still not getting the benefit of what God wants you to have. The good news is the God doesn’t need you to be perfect! You don’t have to be good enough all He wants you to be is God enough. His desire is that you make yourself more available to Him! As you make yourself more available to Him, His grace will be there to empower you in your weakness. We as a people have a tendency to judge and we judge sin from a humanistic stand point. Let’s take for example the way people judge the homosexual life style.

People often say they are going straight to hell. Where does it say that in the Bible? When we (no one is excluded from the we unless you are issueless and perfect), when we reject God in any area of life that's when we fall into sin. We must hear what God is really saying in His word. We don't have to embrace sin but we don't get to judge the sinner. **Romans 3:23, states all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** None of us are perfect! Just make yourself available to Him and He will begin to give you the grace to overcome your sins. You may never get rid of the desire to smoke but you won't find yourself smoking anymore. You may never get rid of the desire for alcohol but you will find yourself not drinking. You may still desire to spend more than you have but you will find yourself not being a shopaholic. God hates all sin but loves all sinners with a perfect love!

Everyone wants to be a Star!

Who are you shining for?

Everyone wants to be extraordinary. Everyone wants to be a star! Though this may sound a little conceited everyone wants to shine even if it's just a little bit. You wear nice clothes because you want to be a star. You get your hair done because you want to be a star. You have rims on your car because you want to be star. There is nothing wrong with desiring the best things in life the question is who are you shining for? Are you shining for the world or are you shining for God? Are you staring in a movie for the world or are you staring in a movie for Christ? Jesus stated in **John 10:10**, the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. He said I have come that you may have life, an abundant life. (**See John 10:10**). Are you tired of being normal and not being what God created and purposed you to be? Are you accessing God's grace or power? If the church is not teaching people the primary function of grace how will people be able to access the power to transform their lives? Let's say there is a tribe in a foreign country that daily has to walk about 35 miles to hunt. That's 35 miles there and 35 miles back. The trip back they have to now carry the game they caught. We decide as a church to give them a Land Rover. We take it to the village and park it. We show them how the XM radio works and how to watch movies. We show them how to access the air conditioning and how to gas it up. We find out they really enjoy these features. We leave and return the next year only to find the Land Rover in the same spot. They continued to walk each day to hunt. Why, because we failed to teach them the primary function of having the Land Rover. The primary function of the Land Rover is transportation. This is what is happening in churches all over the world. People come and get a little information but the primary access to God and His power has not been taught. So a person confesses Jesus as their

Lord and Savior. That person is going to Heaven when they die but their life is full of Hell here on earth. Why because they have not been taught that there is a power available to live a transformed life through having a relationship (time spent with God, where you can access all of His power) this is where renewing the mind takes place and through revelation God reveals truths to us. **He wants to be our transportation to a transformation!** He wants us to desire a relationship with Him as a vital necessity, as essential as the air we breathe. By understanding the primary function of grace we know there is a power made available to us to overcome! Though you may struggle with addiction God says, "I can give you power over that addiction!" You must pray the prayer and ask, "Lord give me the power not too (fill in the blank). Seek Him with your whole heart!

Be Empowered!

Many people believe that grace is only about the gifts and talents it distributes. Some think grace is only about the forgiveness it supplies but grace is an empowerment for the believer to overcome obstacles. It's taking believers from ordinary to extraordinary! So we have to learn how to tap you into His grace. God told Paul, though I am not going to heal you from this affliction; I will give you power over it. Though a thought may run through your mind you must stop running with it. There are things that trigger a certain response. You must begin to recognize your triggers and deactivate them. Grace gives you the power to deactivate them. Many of the mistakes you have made in life you made that decision in a split second, if you would have just waited one more minute. You would be richer, you would be healthier, you would be happier; if you would have said yes when you should've said no, if you would've said no when you should've said yes. A paradigm shift will change your life. When you change your thinking to align with God's word you will receive the power to life changing results. God said, don't worry about what you've lost because your latter days will be better than your former days. God is able to take your mistakes and use it. Steve Harvey made one of the biggest mistakes on television and because he learned from it, it is now making him more profitable. He redefined how people thought of him by admitting to his mistake and apologizing for it. How are you playing out your mistakes? Many ministries are born out of mistakes.

Everything I am able to do I'm going to drop into you!

In **John 1:16**, states the fullness of grace has been deposited in you. We have been deposited with power to greater things than Christ did during his earthly ministry. If you went to a high school basketball player and said you have the ability to give him all the power and ability of Stephen Curry, what do you think his response would be? Of course, "drop it on me!" In **John 1:16** that's what Jesus is telling us. He has

given us access to all of His ability. "Everything that I am able to do you will be able to do but you will be able to do it better." Next time you face an obstacle remember you have access to power.

Have vision!

What is your plan? You must have a vision for every area of your life. God wants to make sure you will be a good manager over all that He has blessed you with. In Deuteronomy 8, He says He has given you power to get wealth. Don't base your life on what you can do but base it on what God does. There are some issues in your life that God has allowed because He has given you the power over them. He knew you would be able to handle them. There will be things in life that Satan will try to use to sabotage you. These are distractions that will try to prevent you from walking the path that God is leading you too. Ask the Holy Spirit to assist you with helping you recognize the triggers that lead you off the path and keep the vision in front of you at all times. Remember grace has empowered you!