



# His Grace is Sufficient

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Sermon

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## About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

## Summary

God told the Apostle Paul, "My Grace is Sufficient for thee". What was He saying and how can we apply that to our lives? What does that scripture not say?

## Scripture References

2 Corinthians 12:9	James 5:14-15	Psalms 78
Isaiah 53:5	Romans 3:22-26	Revelation 12:10-11
1 Peter 2:24	Galatians 4:4-7	



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## Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

- 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.

There are many who have used this scripture to say that God causes sickness at times. Therefore, if someone is not healed then it must be God's will for them to be sick.

While this is a bit of a side note and not the subject at hand, the question must be asked why would God have had Jesus pay the price for our healing?

Isaiah 53:5

- 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

1 Peter 2:24

- 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

If it was true that God causes believers to be sick to teach them something, then it would be equally true to say that God causes people to sin so that they can be saved.

Let's be clear, there is no evidence that the thorn in his flesh was an infirmity. He does say that it was a messenger of Satan. That could have been a Roman soldier who harassed him, since he was held by Roman at that time. Paul described a thorn in his flesh, a messenger, not an ailment.

Sickness and all infirmities must yield to God's Word. Why? Because God's Word says so. By His stripes we are healed. Not by His stripes those who are not afflicted by God are healed. Or, only those who are not taught something through their sickness or infirmity.

James 5:14-15

- 14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
- 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

The prayer of faith shall save the sick. In other words, if you believe then you will be healed when you pray or those you pray for will be healed.

In response to the Apostle Paul's prayer to be delivered from the thorn in his side, God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Regardless of the type of thorn in his side, Paul was helpless to deal with it on his own. We can get hung up on what it was, which would be just speculation, a fruitless venture; or we can focus on God's response instead.



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God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

The word grace means:

- A disposition to be generous or helpful
- A favor rendered by one who need not do so
- Divine love and protection bestowed freely
- The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God.

Based on the definition of grace, God declared to the Apostle Paul, "My protection, My favor, My Mercy is all you need! You may be weak, but I am strong!"

So the first question that we should ask is how do we qualify for that divine favor? His Grace?

The Word tells us about the kind of person the Paul was. But how do we measure up in comparison?

Romans 3:22-26

- 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
- 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

According to God's Word, we are all equal in His sight. We all have the same righteousness that has been applied to us, God's Righteousness.

It is our belief in, and acceptance of, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as our Savior, which qualifies us for the Grace or unmerited favor of God. It is not our works or our family heritage that qualifies us. It is His sacrifice. His blood shed for us.

In God's eyes we are just as important as the Apostle Paul. We are just as worthy of His grace, because it is not earned it is given.

So we qualify for God Grace. Now how do we apply it and what does it mean?

In life we experience negative circumstances. It may be something that is impacting just us, our family, our community or country. What ever the circumstance is God's Grace is enough.

It is important to note, that the fact that you are experiencing difficulties in your life seldom says anything about the presence of sin in your heart. There are times that we do things that cause us problems, that can include sin. More often than not, our difficulties, the negative circumstances in our life, are simply symptoms of a fallen world.

What is important is how you respond to a negative circumstance. Do you assume that you did something wrong, so God is punishing you? Do you complain about the situation and get angry? Do you get angry at God and blame Him?



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How we respond to a negative circumstance reflects the level of our understanding.  
How we respond to a negative circumstance reflects the condition of our hearts.  
How we respond to a negative circumstance reflects our view of God  
How we respond to a negative circumstance shows how we see ourselves in Christ.

If you assume that you did something wrong and the negative circumstance is God's punishment or God trying to teach you something then that says you have a wrong view of God and the work of the cross. We do not live under the old covenant. We live under the Covenant of the Cross, there is a huge difference. Our sins are forgiven, not just covered.

God will reveal things about our hearts and show us great things about Him as He pours out His Grace on our circumstances and turns them around for our good. He always gets the last laugh on the enemy when the enemy tries to bring something against us.

If your response to a negative circumstance is to start complaining and getting angry then your normal. Don't get me wrong this is NOT a good response. It is just normal one.

Responding in anger and complaining against God speaks of our lack of understanding. For that matter, our lack of relationship with God. It speaks of our need to renew our mind to conform to His Word and Character.

If you tend to get angry at God and blame Him for a circumstance that has come against you then there is a problem. That's a bad response. Unfortunately, that is also a very normal response. The world constantly blames God for every negative event. A damaging storm, flood, fire or earthquake is typically referred to an act of God. Even the language in insurance contracts call such events as acts of God.

Man has a tendency is to complain and blame. It started in the Garden when man fell and has continued every since. Eve blamed the serpent. Adam blamed Eve and God. Neither owed up to their failure.

When confronted Adam about his eating the forbidden fruit, his response was the woman you gave me, gave me the fruit, so I ate it. In other words, it is your fault God. You gave me the woman. She gave me the fruit. It is not my fault that I ate it, knowing that it was against your word.

Eve's response was to blame the serpent, saying he deceived me. The serpent convinced me that your Word was not true.

Neither took ownership of their unbelief. Neither took ownership of their sin.

Again, how we respond to a circumstance reflects the level of our understanding and the condition of our hearts. It reveals our view of God and our understanding of who we in Christ

Galatians 4:4-7

- 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
  - 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
  - 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
  - 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
- When you see yourself as a child of God it causes you to react differently in negative circumstances.



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Consider Israel as they traveled in the wilderness. How often did they murmur and complain when things appeared to be difficult.

Psalms 78, lays out how Israel responded in the wilderness and what God did for them, despite their behavior. They witnessed the plagues come against Egypt to force the Egyptians to let them go. They watched as God held the Egyptian army back with a pillar of fire. They watched as God parted the Red Sea and they walked across dry ground in the mist of the sea. They watched as God caused that same Sea to close in on the Egyptian army that was foolish enough to follow them.

Each night as they traveled through the wilderness they were warmed by a pillar of fire which also gave them light to see in the dark.

Each day they traveled and camped under a cloud which kept the hot sun at bay.  
Each day they gathered the bread of Heaven to eat.

Twice God caused water to flow from a rock to quench their thirst. He also made bitter water sweet so that they could quench their thirst.

God did all of those things yet they complained and murmured against God constantly! I would like to think that each of us faced with the same circumstances would respond differently. That we would have an expectancy of God's provision in those circumstances. That we would bring praises to God for His provision before we see it. That we would not complain and make accusations against God. I would like to think that, but I dare say that most of us would do the same as they did.

Psalm 78:40-41

- 40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!  
41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Consider the last verse. They tempted God and limited the Holy One of Israel. When we murmur and complain because of a negative circumstance we show our lack of faith in God. By our words and actions we declare that God is not trust worthy. Our complaints limit His response on behalf. Needless to say, that is not a good thing.

Revelation 12:10-11

- 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.  
11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

When we respond to attacks of the enemy and the negative circumstances of life with words of praises for what God has done for us in the past and what He will do for us.

We, through the blood of the Lamb, our testimony and our praises, defeat the enemy, encourage our hearts and bring glory and honor to God. A sacrifice of Praise when life is difficult causes us to turn our eyes from our circumstances to the one who has the solution.

Our testimonies remind us what He has for us in the past  
Our praise declaring His Word, His Power, His love for us builds our faith  
Thereby, God is not limited by our words to apply His Great Mercy, Protection, Intervention, Favor to our situation.



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Now, if of late, you have found yourself doing the opposite, then ask God for His forgiveness, the forgive yourself, then offer your praises.

Expect to see the supernatural intervention of God, Expect to see a miracle!