

God's grace is sufficient, what does that apply to?

This paper will address that question and also how the phrase is wrongly used. For when people use this phrase, they primarily use it as a catch-all to justify whatever undesirable situation they may have or be going through. I have heard people with numerous diseases use this as a type of justification just to endure their situation that they are going through. But let's first take a look at what God's grace to man actually is and then we will better understand what God meant when He said this to the Apostle Paul.

Paul's thorn in the flesh, 2nd Corinthians 12:7-9.

God conveyed this phrase to the Apostle Paul. And it is often then assumed that Paul had an illness or a disease, perhaps a puffy eye and God expected him to just bear it. People at times use the excuse, "well if Paul had his thorn, I can also bear my thorn." Paul's thorn in the flesh was not sickness it was persecution. Paul later wrote, "and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted", 2nd Timothy 3:12.

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, 2nd Corinthians 12:7-9.

First, Paul's thorn in the flesh, was not from God, it says in (verse 7) that it was a "messenger of Satan to buffet him, lest he should be exalted above measure", Since it was not from God, but from Satan it is clearly something not to be embraced.

Unless we have an abundance of revelation, least we should exalt ourself above measure, (verse 7), we cannot even claim that we have the equivalent as Paul's thorn in the flesh.

Paul's thorn in the flesh was persecution, now there can be external persecutions and internal persecutions, I will address both of them. Paul later wrote in 2nd Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Here is a list of the apostle Paul's external persecutions, from 2nd Corinthians 11:23.

Five times received 39 stripes, three times beaten with rods, once stoned, three times suffered shipwreck, wearied through journeying and of robbers often, in prisons often, in hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness. And responsible for the daily care of all the churches. Click on this link to see a complete list of the [Apostle Paul's persecutions](#).

An example of extreme persecution is, when Paul preached in Iconium and when he was aware that the Jews wished to stone him, he fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia. The Jews from Iconium and Antioch formed a posse and came to where he was, they sired up the people there and stoned him. When your enemies take the time and effort to track you down, now that is real persecution! You can read about this in [Acts 14:1-20](#).

Now there are also internal persecutions, whereby they are not recorded in the scriptures they would be thoughts from the enemy reminding one of his past of how unworthy he was to the preach God's gospel. The Apostle Paul perhaps gave inference to this as he was always confronted by his past: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief, 1st Timothy 1:15.

The term, “thorn in the flesh” was used in the Old Testament three times as meaning, “people” (your enemies) will become thorns in your sides or thorns in your eyes, if you do not overtake them and drive them out of the land.

- if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land; those which ye let remain *shall be* pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you wherein ye dwell, [Numbers 33:55](#).
- but the nations shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD has given you, [Joshua 23:13](#)
- Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be *as thorns* in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you, [Judges 2:3](#).

Jesus never said to anyone that God's grace was sufficient and then left them in their sickness, He healed all of them. People at times will use God's grace as a convenient excuse to justify why healing or whatever they asked for in prayer did not come to pass. And this leads to them actually speaking against and not expecting miraculous healings, signs and wonders. God wants you well, now every person may not get there, (we have much to do with our own destiny). But just as God wishes that no one should perish, [2nd Peter 3:9](#), He also wishes that all to be healed, whole, complete in Him and walking in the Light. However, if you feel that suffering through a sickness or infirmity is a part of God's plan for your life, that His grace will carry you through and if you are content not to change your situation, It will then will apply to you, for as a man thinks in his heart so is he, [Proverbs 23:7](#). But it does not have to be that way.

What God's grace actually is:

Grace is having the anointing, the empowering and the supernatural ability or gifting from God to perform in a certain office or to do a certain job. The Apostle Paul later said in his ministry; Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power, [Ephesians 3:7](#).

Conclusion: God's grace does much abound:

But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one Man, Jesus Christ, has abounded unto many, [Romans 5:15](#).

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: [Romans 5:20](#).

We need God's grace as a covering for our human shortcomings, which we all have, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”, [Romans 3:23](#).

Grace is much more than just saying a prayer before a meal, it is God's enabling power to hold a particular office or to get a job or kingdom task done.

When God said to the Apostle Paul that His grace was sufficient for him, He was referring to baring persecutions for the sake of the gospel. For in this world persecution for the gospels sake

will never stop, the cross and God's Word will always be an offense to some, for the scripture says; "To the one *we are* the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savor of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?", **2nd Corinthians 2:16**. After the crucifixion, the disciples rejoiced when they were beaten for the sake of the gospel, saying that they were worthy to have suffered shame for His name sake, **Acts 5:40-41**.

However, it is ultimately up to you, if you are using God' sufficient grace as a justification to stay where you are, you certainly have the right to do so. For as a man thinks in his heart so is he, **Proverbs 23:7**. But I urge you to learn the Word and expect the promises from out of God's Word. We have a God that created the universe, all that we see and even don't see. With the unlimited power of God's Word, do you really think that He wants anyone of His children to be struggling or hurting? Jesus came to give life and life more abundant, **John 10:10**, it is only the thief that comes to kill steal and destroy. The world has many ways of justifying what we go through, but friend, why are you listening to the wisdom of the word? - the world does not know Jesus, **John 1:10**.

I urge you to focus on God's love and the grace that He gives to us. Strive to get your own revelation of God's love and the goodness of God. Start praising Him for His sufficient grace, it will change your life.

