

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER.

1st Corinthians 4:20



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

Introduction:

This paper will address what the phrase, “God's grace is sufficient” means and also how it 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 justification, but let's take a look at the context in which it was used, and 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. I have had people tell me, 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. Let's take a closer look at the actual scripture, rather than just using man's speculations about what Paul's thorn in the flesh was.

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.

- 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. Even if you are believing it was a form of sickness, that also tells you that sickness is from the enemy, it is not from God.
- 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. The Apostle Paul underwent a dramatic conversion and encounter with God, [Acts chapter 9](#), and afterwards spent years in Arabia gaining revelation directly from the Lord Jesus Christ, [Galatians 1:15-18](#).
- Paul's thorn in the flesh was persecution, for 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 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 stoned 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](#).

- 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](#).
- Lastly, the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthian church, that he labored more abundantly than all of them, [1st Corinthians 15:10](#). If Paul had some kind of a sickness or an infirmity, it would have been rather difficult for a sick man to labor and do the work of the gospel, more than all the others.

God's grace is sufficient, does not apply to sickness or disease:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him, [Acts 10:38](#).

When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with *His* word, and healed all that were sick, [Matthew 8:16](#).

The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly, [John 10:10](#).

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 did not come by their hand, action or belief and rather than taking the time and responsibly to look into why the healing did not come and work through it. And this leads to them actually speaking against healing, saying that the person just need to live with it, for this is God's personal thorn that He has given to you. 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.

Conclusion:

Yes, God's grace does 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**. But people also tend to use this at times as a justification for their personal failures and what they see as their personal limitations.

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**. The Apostle Paul later wrote that all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions, **2nd Timothy 3:12**

More often than not we use this phrase to justify whatever earthy condition that we are struggling with. Rather than get into God's Word, growing in a meaningful relationship with the Lord, and experiencing His many blessing in our life's. For it takes much less effort to sit back, maintain the status-quo, and to turn on the television or some other form of entertainment. God wants us to overcome obstacles, rather than letting obstacles hinder our progress and we end up justifying them by saying, well – God's grace is sufficient. It does not have to be this way; We are made in the image and likeness of God, **Genesis 1:27**. All believers have God's Holy Spirit living within us, **Galatians 4:6**. We are more than conquerors, **Romans 8:37**. We are to overcome evil with good, **Romans 12:21**. And there are so many more scriptures that I could use to make the point that we are to rise above whatever is coming against us.

But, if you are still using God' sufficient grace as a justification for all of your ills and failures, you certainly have the right to do so and for you it will be true. For as a man thinks in his heart so is he, **Proverbs 23:7**. But I urge you brothers 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 on this planet and He is for us, **Romans 8:31**. With the unlimited resources and the power of God, do you really think that He wants one 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**.

If your mindset is that God's grace is sufficient, man's words may not convince you otherwise. But I urge you to focus on God's love, a good revelation of God's love will do far more than this paper can ever do, for you will then have your own personal revelation of the goodness of God. Also I encourage you to start praising Him right now for His sufficient grace, it will change your life.