

God's Grace in Our Weakness

Whether it's fictional superheroes or trending internet stories about overcoming the odds, our culture clearly favors stories celebrating strength. Similarly, in the job market we prove our qualification by communicating our accomplishments and experiences through resumes and interviews. Strength, accomplishments, and experiences are all good, but Paul says they're not the point. In fact, when it comes to our spiritual lives and our witness, they can distract us from God. Through the well-known passage about a thorn in his flesh, Paul argues believers should be more comfortable boasting in our weaknesses so that God's grace is evident to all. At the same time, Paul's vulnerability also gives us insight for understanding and responding to our seemingly unanswered prayers.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever been disappointed with God's answers (or seeming lack of answers) to your prayers? What impact did this experience have on your faith?
- Has anyone ever asked you to prove what you believe or asked you to teach them about Jesus? What was that experience like?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God's Grace in Our Weakness](#)

READ [2 Corinthians 12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- If you are convicted about the truth of the gospel, does that make it easier to endure difficulties? Does having conviction mean you will never experience any doubts?
- When it comes to sharing your faith, how are boasting and testimony different?
- How did Paul respond to being disappointed by God's answers to his prayers? What have you learned about the life of faith from Paul's response?
- Have you ever discovered God's strength when you least expected it? Describe the experience. How can sharing this experience benefit the faith of others and give glory to God?
- As the episode closes, hosts Scott Hoezee and Dave Bast caution against sharing too quickly the beautiful promise, that God's grace is sufficient, in response to someone's pain. Why? Have you seen this happen and what were the results? What might we look for in a situation that would help us know when and how it's appropriate to share the comfort of God's grace in our weakness?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#), [2 Corinthians 11](#), [2 Corinthians 13](#)

CONCLUSION

Consider the relationships in your life, particularly the ones in which you have an opportunity to share or demonstrate the love and grace of God. What weaknesses or thorns do you struggle with in your life and what is your attitude toward them? Take time to pray both for the humility and faith to trust God's grace is sufficient and that it will be greater than your weakness.

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