

# OH BLESSED AFFLICTION

Pastor's Desk – February 28, 2021



**2 Corinthians 12:9** “*And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*”

The grace of God is sufficient for us. Grace, in general terms, is "favor". It is what God honors us with, what He supplies us with. It can involve spiritual gifts or material things. By His grace, we have daily nourishment, attire, and a roof over our heads. Most of us have a car to drive; some even have a motorcycle!

Paul regarded his "thorn in the flesh" to be part of His grace - a tough thing to say! How could he state that an ailment that God permitted could be part of His grace to Paul? The answer is: with a condition, whatever it occurred to be, the Lord balanced out for Paul the revelations that he had

received; that way, he would not become stuck-up, sin presumptuously, and waste his salvation.

Think about it: was there ever a man given as many gifts as the apostle Paul? Concluding from how much the Lord wrote through him - how much God used his submissiveness, his mind, intellect, training, experience, and eagerness to strive and sacrifice himself on account to God and the church - it might have been effortless for him to become puffed up. He even said himself that nobody worked any harder than he did, writing, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*" (1Corinthians 15:10).

It was great for Paul to be distressed because if he were not, he just might have done something that he would have lamented. God mercifully allowed Paul to undergo a physical problem to keep him attentive to his dependence on the Lord.

We have a difficult time thinking this way! We regard this sort of affliction to be evil, but Paul flips that on its head, saying, "No, no, it's alright, because with this difficulty, I am weak, and because of that, then I don't get puffed-up. Then Christ can work within and through me, and the job gets accomplished." And as content and submissive as Paul was, in a somewhat similar situation, could you say the same? Could you utter the words, "Oh blessed affliction"?

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos