

Grace

In My Weakness

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9

What does this mean? I believe it means that God chooses to display His power in us by sustaining us in our weakness. I learned this lesson more deeply this past year than in my whole life combined. My devotion last year talked about my husband’s brush with death over heart failure, E. coli and 13 heart surgeries. And how God did a miracle and saved his life.

Take a moment to read the full chapter of 2 Corinthians 12. It shares how Paul pleaded with the Lord to take the “thorn” (whatever it was), away from him. God could have delivered Paul and said to him, “My power is made perfect in my deliverance” but He didn’t. Instead, God chose to leave Paul with his thorn and said to him *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*

I remember pleading with God to save Derek’s life – to heal him immediately from his heart failure. When that didn’t happen and things got worse, I prayed for God to immediately heal him from his infection. After 3 weeks of near-death surgeries with me pleading to God to save Derek’s life, the E. coli finally came under control and his long road of recovery could begin. I kept asking. I kept hoping. I kept believing. But instead of immediately answers to prayers, God kept me on this continuous journey of leaning on Him, trusting in Him, putting my hope in Him.

I learned a few key lessons along the way. When we allow God’s grace to be sufficient in our lives:

- We can LET GO of the reins & let God do the work
- God gets ALL the glory (through the journey and in the outcome)
- It forces us to trust in God ALONE
- It deepens OUR trust in God
- It is an EXAMPLE for others to see

I consider myself blessed overall. One of the biggest blessings is that I’ve been married for almost 28 years to a man who loves the Lord and loves me. Now, I’m not saying that I haven’t had my share of hardships! This past year is a prime example. The hospital part of the journey was one of the darkest times of my life but the recovery at home this past year has also been a major, uphill climb – mainly because I’m going through it as a parent.

I have four children who also walked through this journey with their dad. As a parent, I wanted to be honest with them about how close their dad came to dying but also wanted to protect them. I wanted to be strong for them and not allow them to see my tears or my fears. Who was I kidding? Kids see everything. While we’ve all learned to live in our “new normal” during Derek’s recovery, I believe they saw when I was strong and when I was weak. They knew that we were all powerless to help their dad while in the hospital - but in that weakness (that

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inability to fix it) they also saw how God sustained us all and that He was the main one to put our trust in.

And since the hospital, they've watched both Derek & I trust in the Lord for healing, for our finances, and for what our future looks like. **God's grace has been sufficient.** And my kids saw that firsthand.

I've heard it said, "It is easier to build up a child than it is to repair an adult, so choose your words (and your actions) wisely". I know tough times will hit each one of my kids as they go through life. As they look back on this time, it's my prayer that they will remember it as a time when God held us. That it was a time when we called upon His Name and He answered. That when we didn't know what to pray anymore – that God's grace was sufficient.

Not everyone gets the answers they are praying for. Many of you reading this have lost loved ones that you've prayed for. Or you have broken relationships. Or health is a concern for you or your family. My encouragement to you is this: Keep asking. Keep hoping. Keep believing in our God who sees you, who knows you, who understands you and who loves you unconditionally. We can't take on the pain that can sometimes overwhelm us by ourselves. We weren't built to do it. Instead, turn to the Lord and ask Him to lift you up, to comfort you in the middle of your struggle, and to give you the **GRACE** to sustain you. It's in our weaknesses that God shines!

- **Where do we find the strength to withstand hardships—from strength within or God's grace from without?**
- **What does "My grace is sufficient for you" mean in your words?**
- **What does "My strength is made perfect in weakness" mean in your words?**
- **Why do you think God allows pain and/or suffering in our lives?**



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