



**A THORN  
IN THE FLESH**

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10**



## 2 Corinthians 12:7-9a

"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."



## 2 Corinthians 11:1-3

"I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that **as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning**, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ."



## Genesis 3:1-7

Let's consider the character of Satan with this passage:

- He's been sinning from the beginning (1 John 3:8).
- He's the father of lies (John 8:44).
- He's puffed up (1 Timothy 3:6).
- He'll disguise himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).



## Genesis 3:1-7

Let's consider the result of not accepting God's grace:

- They became ashamed and blamed!
- Eve was reminded that her husband would rule over her!
- Adam would experience pain . . . thorns and thistles!  
Hard labor until the day you die!
- Guess it doesn't benefit us to take the reigns, does it?



# His Grace IS Sufficient

But we don't always see it:

- When making friends
- When looking for a spouse
- In our marriages
- In our work
- In service to and time with our brethren
- In worship
- In bible study
- In prayer, etc.

**Yet we're perplexed when something goes wrong!**



## 2 Peter 2:17-19

"These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. **They promise them freedom**, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, **to that he is enslaved.**"



# 1 Peter 5:6-11

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**"



## 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that **the power of Christ** may rest upon me. **For the sake of Christ, then, I am content** with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong."**



IS HIS GRACE SUFFICIENT?