

My Grace is Sufficient for You (Spiritual Warfare II)

2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

Key Verse: 12:9

“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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

*** PAUL BOASTS ABOUT HIS SUFFERINGS (11:16-29)**

1. How did Paul equate self-confident boasting and foolishness? (16-18) Due to their lack of discernment, what were the Corinthians putting up with? (19-20) Who were the fools here? Why did Paul begin to boast about himself like them? (21)

2. How did Paul boast about himself compared with the "super-apostles"? (22-23a) What sufferings did Paul go through as a servant of Christ? (23b-27) Why are sufferings always a part of Christian life and service? (2Ti3:12; Mk13:13; Jn15:18-20)

3. In the midst of external trials, how had Paul suffered daily as a shepherd? (28-29) What should the Corinthians have realized through this?

*** PAUL BOASTS ABOUT HIS WEAKNESSES (11:30-12:10)**

4. What did Paul resolve to boast about? (11:30) How is this opposite of our natural tendency? How did Paul assure them that he was not lying about the facts? (11:31-32) How did this reveal his weakness?

5. What did he go on to boast about? (12:1-4) Why did he describe it in such a self-effacing way? (12:5) Until now, why had he refrained from mentioning this vision? (12:6) What was the danger of having such a surpassingly great revelation, and why did God allow Satan to torment Paul? (12:7) At first, what did Paul do about this? (8)

6. Read 12:9. What was God's unexpected answer to Paul's prayer? What was God trying to teach him? Like Paul, how can we have Christ's power rest on us? (12:9b) What did Paul begin to delight in? (12:10) In light of this, what attitude should we have toward all our own weaknesses and sufferings?