

Series: A Glorious Grace: Designs Of Grace

Message: Sustaining Grace: Part One

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11 – 12

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Triumphalism

The belief that God will save Christians, not only from the punishment due them for their sin and the guilt associated, but also from all of this life's burdens, confusion, discouragements, defeats, pain, difficulties, diseases, etc.

Sustaining Grace

The necessary strength to live with the difficulties of life and continue to remain faithful and joyous in spite of those difficulties.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 11:5

⁵ For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

2 Corinthians 11:13

¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

1. For The Christian, Life Struggles Should (At The Least) Be Viewed As Credentials Of Spiritual Legitimacy.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

²⁶ I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

²⁷ I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2 Corinthians 11:30

³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:1-6

¹ Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a man was caught up to the third heaven.

³ And I know how such a man-- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows--

⁴ was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

⁵ On behalf of such a man will I boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.

⁶ For if I do wish to boast I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me.

2 Corinthians 12:1

¹ Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:7-8

⁷ And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.