

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **November 4, 2018** sermon, "My Grace is Sufficient." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 12:1-10) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET OUR NEEDS IN THE MIDST OF . . .

1. The supernatural claims being made in life (1-4)
 - a. Paul's opponents boasted of spiritual experiences, but Paul says there "is nothing to be gained" from boasting about these experiences.
 - i. Paul hadn't told anyone about his experience (and it had been 14 years!)
 - ii. The important thing is that each person is "in Christ."
 - b. The wise believer does not over-emphasize supernatural experiences, but looks to Jesus.
2. The verbal boastings being endured in life (5-6)
 - a. Each person could emphasize their credentials, gifts or experiences. Don't do it!
 - b. Boast about Jesus. Talk about his credentials, gifts and victorious work.
3. The physical sufferings being experienced in life (7-10)
 - a. Paul was given a "thorn" which God allowed so that Paul would not become conceited.
 - b. God will put (keep) you in a season of weakness so that he gets the glory from your life.
 - c. Often, it is the struggle of a hard season which makes you stronger for the next season.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Though Paul had a true supernatural experience with God in heaven, he realized that nothing could be gained from boasting about it. Instead, Paul emphasized the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the clarity of what the Word of God says about Jesus. What do you do with testimonies about supernatural experiences (like being in heaven, or a vivid dream about Jesus)? Is the testimony about Jesus Christ from Scripture sufficient for you?
2. Based on #1, above: Review Ephesians 1:12 and 1:15. Take a look at 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this emphasis on being "in Christ" help you focus? Are you able to hear about incredibly vivid supernatural experiences (of others) without desiring a similar experience?
3. Based on #2, above: When people begin to emphasize their experiences and their credentials, it's easy to start looking at them, rather than Christ. How has a focus on personality (rather than the person of Christ) stunted your spiritual growth through the years?
4. Based on #3, above: God had the power to release Paul from the "thorn," but he chose not to. What painful thorn has God allowed in your life? Have you (like Paul) come to the point where you see that God can use a bad thorn for a good purpose?
5. Based on #3, above: God's grace is sufficient to help you endure your "thorn" with grace and humility, even if God never chooses to remove the thorn. In what ways have you found God's grace sufficient? If you can't see any good coming from the thorn, do you still trust your Lord?