

**INTRO VERSE: PSALMS 46:10-11**

- Story behind the series

**PROMISE KEEPER REVIEW**

W1: Everything we need for a Godly life

W2: Nothing separates us from the love of God

W3: He saves the worst & works through us

**THE STORY OF PAUL**

**2 Corinthians 11:23-25**

<sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again.<sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.<sup>8</sup> Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. <sup>9</sup> Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. <sup>10</sup> That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

\*GRACE: *charis* (gr) - that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: good will, loving-kindness, favor

- I. of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian life.

**IN OUR WEAKNESS HE IS STRONG**

- We often spend time trying to look put together
- In wrestling, if you show your weakness, it is a vulnerability people will capitalize on
- Running out ahead of God
- God's help isn't failure
- Boasting in our weaknesses
- Isaiah 30:15-18
- When dealing with a "thorn", we are to draw close to God, not run to other things for strength
- We are called to trust Him when it doesn't make sense
- His grace is sufficient
- Often, you don't realize His grace is sufficient until you realize you are insufficient in yourself

**2 Corinthians 1:3-12**

<sup>3</sup>All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup>He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. <sup>5</sup>For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. <sup>6</sup>Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort

and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. <sup>7</sup>We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. <sup>8</sup>We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. <sup>9</sup>In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. <sup>11</sup>And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety. <sup>12</sup>We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness<sup>[c]</sup> and sincerity in all our dealings. **We have depended on God's grace,** not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you

### **God comforts us**

- Gods comfort doesn't always look the same as we think
- Sometimes we ask God to fix it so we can go back to depending on ourselves and not have to trust
- Have you ever felt like you weren't going to live through the pain of dealing with your "thorn?"

### **In the storm or with the "thorns" of life**

- God's Presence (Romans 13:14)
- Gods Promises (Psalms 91:4-5)
- Gods People (Hebrews 3:12-15)

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- How was your week? Do you have any prayer requests?
- What stood out to you the most in the message?
- In the storms or with the "thorns" of your life, which of the following areas do you need to better engage?
  1. God's presence
  2. God's promises
  3. God's people
- **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
  - What do we learn from this passage?
  - What "thorns" have you had in your life? What happened? What did you learn?
  - What weaknesses do you battle?
  - What does it look like to depend on God's grace?
  - What does God mean when He says His grace is *sufficient*?
  - What did you learn about grace in this context?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-12**
  - What stands out to you?
  - When in trials, what are the ways you can better depend on God, rather than yourself?



NEXT STEPS



APP



OVERTIME PODCAST