

*the*



**HOLINESS**

PODCAST

## EPISODE #2- His Grace is Sufficient

### SUMMARY:

God has provided all we need to live a holy life. What a remarkable plan. The apostle Paul learns through a 'thorn in the flesh' that our contribution is weakness while God's contribution is power by His grace!

### KEY STATEMENTS:

“Your weakness is not an impediment to spiritual power. Strikingly in fact, it is your contribution to make – humbly, willingly, bringing all you are to Christ.”

“Moses did not enter the Promised Land because of his disobedience. The problem was that Moses focused his attention on the plan and took his eyes off the Planner. When we focus on the circumstances of our lives rather than on our relationship with God, we are depending on our own weakness, not the grace of God which is sufficient.”

“To be at the end of man's resources is not to be at the end of God's resources. In fact, it is to be perfectly postured to experience the surplus of the power of God breaking through and proving sufficient.”

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

READ the passage alluded to in the podcast – I Corinthians 3:1-4. Notice the frustration of Paul as he tells the believers in Corinth that their spiritual growth is stunted, that they are 'infants in Christ.' He has just finished teaching them about the Spirit given to them by God.

1) DISCUSS how they have traded the transforming power of the Holy Spirit for their own preferences, giving allegiance to human leaders. How can we be sure that we are claiming God's sufficient grace? Ought we not to pray for a consuming awareness of our weakness so that we don't usurp His power?

1) What part of the prayer used by the teacher in the podcast spoke most strongly to you?

Oh, Lord

Thy will,

Nothing more

Nothing less

Nothing else

At any cost

Amen.

Does the caution against seeking worldly success speak to you?

Or the caution against becoming spiritually lazy?

Or substituting something good for the real thing – ie. God's will?

1) Listen to Max Lucado writing about our textual verse in his book *Grace*, in a chapter entitled “Fear Dethroned”:

“A thorn in the flesh. Such vivid imagery. The sharp end of a thorn pierces the soft skin of life and lodges beneath the surface. Every step is a reminder of the thorn in the flesh.

The cancer in the body.

The sorrow in the heart.

The child in the rehab center.

The red ink on the ledger.

The felony on the record.

The craving for whiskey in the middle of the day.

The tears in the middle of the night.

The thorn in the flesh.”

Take a moment and consider what would be on your list. Can you claim the sufficiency of Christ for your circumstance?

1) PRAY that you will trust God completely, growing a consuming awareness of His strength working through your weakness.

PRAY that those experiencing suffering, pain even despair in their lives will seek God's grace and strength to sustain them in His will.