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Pastor's Corner

We Are Weak But He is Strong

I have always wondered - how do we make through the tough times? What is it that carries us through? This power, this invisible source that seems to come out of nowhere, always seems to get us to the other side of hard times.

The power that gets us through the difficulties we encounter is **grace**. We so often understand grace to be some passive extension of God's love and while it is truly an extension of God's love, it is so much more than that. It is God's grace that is working within us and through us that enables us to do the will and work of Jesus Christ. Grace is the power of God that is given to us when we are too weak to go on. Grace is the power of God that is given to when we are too weak to stand. Grace is the strength that God gives when all of our strength has been drained out of our bodies. It is this grace that God gives in ways that we do not understand that somehow meets the needs of those desperate moments we all encounter. Grace is made available even in those moments when we feel most burdened.

In times such as the ones we are experiencing, life, at its best, is difficult. However, it is the grace and the mysterious intervention of God that always gets us through. The following story illustrates God's grace:

A story is told of a pilgrim who was on his journey home. He traveled through beautiful green valleys and rested in the cool of the day. However, his journey carried him through the desert that was void of any water. It lacked shade as well as a cool breeze of any kind. Soon he began to thirst and cried out to God; "Lord, I'm thirsty. Help me find water." In response he heard the Lord say,

“My Grace is sufficient.” God led him to a pile of rocks and told him to pick one up and carry it. All this did was make him question God even more. Why would God knowing he’s thirsty give him a rock to carry? Disturbed by the extra burden, the traveler, called out to God: “Lord, I’m thirsty!” and again the Lord’s answer was: “My grace is sufficient.” God showed him a large dried gourd and told him to carry it. Nearly exhausted, the pilgrim continued carried the rock and gourd. Frustrated with God he said, “I asked you for water and he made my load heavier by adding a rock. I asked him again for water and all he gave me was an empty gourd. Exhausted from traveling he gave out. He fell down under what looked like a large tree. He cried out to God he could not go any further. As he closed his eyes, completely drained, God’s response was the same “My grace is sufficient.” When the pilgrim opened his eyes in the morning he was laying against a great cactus, bulging with juices. God said, “take the rock and cut the cactus. Take the gourd and catch the juices as they flow. When you have finished, fill your gourd and it will be enough to carry you home.” The pilgrim gave thanks to God and rejoiced for truly God’s grace was sufficient.

I realize there are moments is your life when you do not believe you can see your way through, but God’s grace is sufficient. There are moments when you feel as though you cannot take another step - God’s grace is sufficient. I’m certain there are situations and circumstances you do not have an answer for - God’s grace is sufficient even then.

It does not matter if you understand what is going on in your life; however it *does* matter who you trust and follow in your life. It is the grace of God that motivates and lifts us up. It is the grace of God that moves us out of our complacency.

I would like each of you to consider looking at grace from a different perspective. Whenever, we come across the word “grace” try replacing it with the words “divine power.” May the grace (divine power) of God keep you and hold you. May God’s grace (divine power) continue to sustain you. May the grace (divine power) of God grant you the peace you need in times such as these.

God Bless and remain Safe,

Pastor Gool