



28 JUNE 2026 PM

2 Corinthians 12:9

**TRANSCEND**

= to rise above; to go beyond

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## 2 Corinthians 12:9

## INTRODUCTION

- this is a familiar passage of scripture where Paul described a difficult time in his life in which he suffered with some thorn in the flesh

what was the issue? many sermons focus on answering that question, but honestly, the point of the entire episode is that Paul only spoke about it this one time

in other words, he learned to get past the thorn and trust God for the outcome

And he said unto me... (once and for all time)

how many times does God have to tell you something before you finally learn to trust Him?

- using Paul's situation, perhaps this evening we can learn the same lesson...

# 1. ATTITUDE

Most gladly therefore will I rather...

keep in mind Paul's thorn in the flesh:

**verse 7** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

the thorn in the flesh was the messenger of satan, allowed by God so Paul would not become proud or boastful as a result of his abundance of revelations

*cf* **verses 1-6**

Paul was allowed to see things no other human had been allowed to see

now, because of this thorn, Paul had prayed three times for it to be removed

God's answer to this prayer was **NO** to the removal of the thorn, but **YES** to His grace and strength

have you ever looked at prayer this way?

in this answer, we notice a change in Paul's attitude about the situation:

rather = indicates a choice (vs 1, 5)

**MOST** gladly = sweetly

**verse 15** ...And I will **very gladly** spend and be spent for you...

all too often, we complain about what God is choosing to do in our lives ...Jonah...prodigal brother

**Philippians 1:27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ:

**Ephesians 4:23** ...And be renewed in the spirit of your mind...

## 2. APTITUDE

=capacity for learning

glory in my infirmities...

many Christians might not openly complain about the situations of life...but they **ENDURE** them

that sounds reasonable, but Paul went far beyond *endurance*

glory = to boast

### Psalm 34:2

My soul shall make her boast in the LORD:  
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

NOTE: it is interesting...in all of the New Testament, only Paul used the word *glory* as a verb

### verse 10

Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities**, in **reproaches**, in **necessities**, in **persecutions**, in **distresses** for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

infirmities = sickness, disease

reproaches = insults, insolence

necessities = things not provided

persecutions = harassment, reviling

distresses = 'narrow places', stress

NOTE: in his commentary, John Phillips put it this way: *At this time, Paul is living on the high plateau of the Sermon on the Mount. Few of God's saints ever pitch their tents on these blessed table lands.*

### Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed [happy] are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

## 2 Corinthians 11:30

If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

## 2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

## 1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

# 3. ALTITUDE

...that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

here's the heart of the matter...your **ATTITUDE** and your **APTITUDE** will determine your **ALTITUDE**

Paul was no longer concerned for his own personal comfort and well-being

he had a much higher goal in mind

power = dynamite (*dunamis*)

*my strength is made perfect...*

Paul came to understand that the more **GRIEF** he had, the more **GRACE** he had, and the more **GRACE** he had, the more of **GOD** he had

## Romans 16:25

...to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel,

## Matthew 28:18

...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...

what heights might we obtain if we fully understood the power of God working in our lives

**Ephesians 3:20** Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...

...may rest upon me

rest = to set up a tent

Paul did not want a short supply of power...he didn't want just enough to get him through the problem

NOTE: electricity in Africa...

he wanted the power of Christ to **DWELL** in him and cause him to function at the top levels every moment of every day

the only way this was going to happen was for him to adjust his **ATTITUDE** about the situations of life and increase his **APTITUDE** of troubling situations