



**Mid-Week Devotion
Making Our Thorns Into Roses**

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

“My grace is sufficient for you...” 12:9

Grace for most of us is something we learn about only through times of need. Being created as needy creatures, these times are frequent. Our brokenness is an essential characteristic of our humanity. It is like a mark we are born with, a mark that identifies us as belonging to the Creator. So it should be no surprise then, that we need God’s grace.

In recent years, we have become fascinated, even obsessed with the perfect. We want the perfect body, the perfect job, the perfect marriage, the perfect children, even the perfect guilt and grief-free life. Consumerism has become so powerful in our culture that it seems we will buy any pill, any program, and any machine that we give us our perfection. However, the biblical depiction of God’s created never even comes close to perfection. Why is this? Why do we want that which we were never created to have...our perfection? Perhaps it is because in all our efforts and the energy we expend to find our perfection, we at some point come to realize that what we really need is a savior that will love us just as we are; and the only way to realize this is by experiencing it for ourselves. Unfortunately, this usually means experiencing broken dreams, broken promises, and eventually broken souls. The Bible describes us as a people who need a Savior, however too often in our lives, we try to go it alone, and so we wind up becoming bitter, and angry at what our lives have become. Even in our prayer life, we tend to pray for God to fix our messes; however, His response often has little to do with fixing us, and more to do with allowing us to confess our neediness.

The Apostle Paul talked about a thorn in his life that he repeatedly asks God to remove. God’s answer, repeatedly, was no; my grace is sufficient He told Paul. In this answer to Paul’s prayers, Paul learned a great deal about the sufficiency of God’s grace. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t want us to have thorn free lives, and surely He doesn’t want us to have lives that we simply have to put up with. Rather what it does mean, is that our hurts, losses, and pain in our lives can become the best alters for worshiping our Savior, and after all, that is the point of life; to Glorify God, and enjoy Him forever. The truth is that while God loves you just as you are, in His unimaginable wisdom and grace, He refuses to leave you that way. Now that’s a Savior!

Mighty and Gracious Lord, help us once more this day to seek no further than Your loving arms in our search for perfection in our lives. And once in Your arms, may we truly believe that Your grace is sufficient. In Jesus name, Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Ed