

Tabernacling Grace

2Co 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

One thing that differs from religion to the revelation of grace in the New Covenant is the issue of weakness. In religion weaknesses are to be despised, hated, and above all else to be worked on diligently to overcome them and rid them. Here Paul takes on the opposite view. Instead of hating his weakness and trying to overcome it, He actually boasted in it! He embraced his weaknesses. Paul here says that he boasted in his weaknesses so that the power of Christ would rest upon him. What Paul is saying here is that if he had despised his weaknesses and tried to overcome them himself, then the power of Christ would and could not be given to him to cause him to overcome them. Grace is what God does freely for us without our efforts. Many are working laboriously on their weaknesses trying to eliminate them and the power of Christ remains idle. Often, we will try to overcome our weaknesses and also ask God for His help in overcoming them. We cannot mix our efforts and God's grace. Either God's grace does the work in us and for us to give us the victory or we must do all the work to do it. There can be no mixture. Instead of hating our weaknesses and trying to overcome them we need to do what Paul said. We need to accept that we have weaknesses and be honest about them. We can actually be thankful for our weaknesses! Our weaknesses actually are the catalyst for the power of Christ to be released in us and for us. God knows we have weaknesses. He does not despise us or our weaknesses. He knows we still have flesh and that we have weaknesses. He is fine with that! He really is! He is cool with it! What He is not cool with is when we deny we have weaknesses or try to overcome them with the power of the flesh and will power. Nothing good comes from the flesh. God desires that we would come to Him with our weaknesses so the power of Christ can rest upon us. What does it mean that Christ's power rest on us. The word

"rest" in the verse we are looking at is **episkenoō**, which means to pitch a tent upon. Paul was boldly making a reference to the Old Testament tabernacle. This tabernacle was where the Shekinah Glory rested. What is Paul saying in this verse? He is saying that when we admit our weaknesses and ask for God's grace and power to be given to us in our weakness then God's actual presence will rest upon our weakness to fill it them up, overcome it, and rest upon it. God wants to tabernacle upon your weakness! He does not want you to hate your weakness but relish in your weakness so you can trust in Christ's power to tabernacle upon you! God wants to pitch His Holy of Holies right over your weakness and see His power made perfect in your weakness. He desires that His glory will be revealed through your weakness. The tabernacle of the Old Testament no longer can be found on earth, but God's tabernacle is pitched each time one of His children brings their weakness to Him and asks for His grace, power, and strength to be given to them. God pitches His tent over them so that He will be glorified by empowering you to do what you could not possible do in the flesh. We can choose to wrestle with your weaknesses in our own resources or we can allow Christ to pitch His tent over us and the Shekinah Glory will manifest over our weaknesses to His glory! So when you face a temptation in an area of your weakness, do not try to overcome your weakness. Just turn to the Lord and say, "Lord, I have a weakness in this area. I know it and you know it. You also know that I will fail if I try to handle it. Lord, please give me your grace, power, and strength and pitch your tabernacle upon my weakness. Receive glory by overcoming this weakness for me! Thank you Lord I receive it!" If you do this in faith, you will see victory!

Will you allow Christ to pitch His tabernacle upon you? Will you let Him cover you with His power? If not, you will be out shivering in the cold by yourself! Let Him pitch His tent upon you right now and experience victory!