

# Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 9)

## Sufficient Grace

Is the Grace of The Lord, Sufficient for You? Is His Grace enough for you, or do you require more? Do you require a Sign? Or maybe a deeper knowledge?

In our Lord's own words to the Apostle Paul, Recorded in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corn. 12:9, He say's in answering Paul's request to remove a thorn of pestilence, A **"messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure"** The lord God Almighty answers, **"My Grace is Sufficient for thee."**

Is the Lord's Grace Sufficient for you? Is our Great and Loving Savior's Grace, Sufficient in your world? In your trials? In your temptations? In your glories?

We are not talking about our strength in faith, we are not talking about something of our ability, no, we are talking about His Graciousness to us, His chosen people, His blood bought children, purchased with the price of His own precious Blood! Trusting Him as The Sovereign! Is it sufficient for anything and all things we need?

If you have been called of God, if God has shined the Light of the world in your heart, the answer is, without question, YES!

To say that He could not be sufficient whether it be for this or for that, is to say less of who the master is! It would be to declare Him as something He is Not! Weak!

God, in all of His attributes is sufficient in all things.

His sufficiency is always in question to a soul who lives with an unregenerate heart, one who still walks in the darkness we are born into, is God able? Could he save a sinner such as I? is he all sufficient in all things, or do I need something more?

The most powerful revelation of the True and Living God, is His sovereignty, His sufficiency, His ability, His power over all that is!

And that Sovereignty, that Sufficiency, That ability, that Power is always in question to an unregenerate soul!

Mankind, in their unregenerate state trust in what they can see, what they can do, what they feel, what they have knowledge of, or what they can buy, because they do not believe the record given of God about His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**(1Jn 5:7-12) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

And You and I were right there, in that state of darkness, trusting in our own Knowledge, trusting in what we could do, trusting in our feelings, trusting in our wealth! Trusting in self! And not trusting Him!

I beg of you; (Pro 3:5-8) **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.**

There are a couple of different Greek words of the old testament that are translated to the word “Sufficient”

One being “*dahee*” pronounced “day” and it is used to define “Enough, sufficient, able, much, according, oft”, used as in (Mal 3:10) **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

Or as it is used in; (Lev 25:28) **But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.**

There are also a couple of different new testament Hebrew words translated to “Sufficient”, one being “hikanos” meaning; *competent* (as if *coming* in season), that is, *ample* (in amount) or *fit* (in character): - able, + content, enough, good, great, large, many, meet, much, security, sore, sufficient, worthy. Used as in; (2Co 12:9) **“My grace is sufficient for thee”** .

Or as it is used in (Mar 1:7) **And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.** “I am not “worthy” or sufficient”

With that understanding of the word lets look to our Lord’s recorded Word to see His grace and how it suffices His people, I have used many a time the lord’s Grace in dealing with Jonah, so for this study I wish to look to a couple of others!

Consider the day our Lord spake to Abraham; (Gen 17:15-19) **And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.** Was not this birth, of a woman past the age of conception an act of His Grace, or you could ask that question this way; “was God’s Grace sufficient for such a thing”, Abraham didn’t think so at first, but that did not diminish the Character of God’s Grace one bit, did it? Aren’t you thankful God’s Grace does not depend on our faith?

Continuing with Abraham let’s go a little further, Abraham has been taught of God a few things, He has grown in the Lord’s Grace, and in the Knowledge of his Savior! We read (Joh 8:56) **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.**

(Gen 22:1-2) **And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.** Abraham has been promised that through Issac, through his seed would come the Messiah, the deliverer, the anointed one whom would deliver His people from their iniquity!

(Gen 22:3-6) **And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.**

**And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.** Now I ask you was God's Grace sufficient for Abraham? Where was Abraham's faith? Was it not in God's Word, the word of His Grace? Was it Not the promise? Was it not the Power to fulfill that promise? Where else could it have been? Abraham knew it could not be of himself! Only God can raise the dead to life!

(Gen 22:7-28) **And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.** And we know the rest of this story, the Lord provided a Ram caught in a thicket by his horns, a picture of the All powerful Son of the most High, Jesus Christ Himself!

Folks our faith may be weak or strong, it has no bearing on the Graciousness of the Lord! one of the many names that declare The Lord for who He is, is "**Je-ho-vah-ji-reh**" (the Lord will see, or the Lord will provide). All of this story is a declaration of the sufficiency of God's Grace! If it weren't for the Lord's Grace Abraham would have died with no son of promise.

folks this is the bottom line of His Grace!

God became a man, He did not have to do that, yet He did have too! What do I mean about that; God is God, not bound by anything other than Himself, whatever He does, is, or thinks is right! If He had chosen to do away with man and go a different direction that would be right, because he is God! And because there is a price for sin, He had to become a man to fulfill His own law, to establish a righteousness for the unrighteous whom the Father gave Him from before the world was, He had to save His loved ones from their sins! He had to shed His own Blood to ransom us from the bondage of death. He had to be Holy in all that He did so as to conquer death,

That's Grace and because it is of Him, as it is with everything about Him,

It is Sufficient, Enough, or *ample* (in amount) or *fit* (in character) to fulfill it's intent!

Another of God's saints, dealing with the perils of this world, Job had much of this world! And the Lord brought testing to Job, allowing Satan to take his sons and daughters, and servants but one, and again the Lord allowed Satan to take Jobs livestock, and again the Lord allowed Satan to afflict Job's flesh with boils and such yet by God's Free and Sovereign Grace was Job delivered from all that worldly pain!

And the Word of the Lord tells us **“Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly”**. (Job 1:20-22)

Why did not this man charge God in foolishness for what had happened unto Him? because God's Grace is sufficient! God's Grace is what kept Him! God's Grace is what did not let Him turn from the truth to the lie of self, the lie of I!

**(Job 13:14-15) Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand? Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:**

Though my trials are as raging waters, I will trust He is the Lord! what ever He allows is right! His Grace Is Sufficient!

The apostle Paul states this; **“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living”**. (Rom 14:7-9)

One last thing that points us to His Sufficiency, our commission is to go into all the world and preach the Gospel!

Men can speak till their face turns blue, yet it must be God who makes the word effectual in cold dead hearts!

Every preacher, God's preachers that is, know the only power in our message is the power of the Holy Spirit, the result of His Sufficient Grace; **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;** (2Co 3:5)

We preach Christ Jesus the Lord, as the Apostle Paul puts it;

**1Co 1:17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

**1Co 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**1Co 1:19** For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

**1Co 1:20** Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

**1Co 1:21** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

**1Co 1:22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

**1Co 1:23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

**1Co 1:24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

**1Co 1:25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**1Co 1:26** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

**1Co 1:27** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;



**1Co 1:28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

**1Co 1:29** That no flesh should glory in his presence.

**1Co 1:30** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

**1Co 1:31** That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We Glory in Him,

We glory In who He Is!

We glory In what He has done!

And we Glory in where He is this very moment!

And we do that because of His Grace working in us!

Sufficient Grace!

**And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so also of the consolation. For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; (2Co 1:7-10)**