

PERFECT

(τελέω = 'teleho')

Perfect, to bring to a close, to finish, to end, to perform, execute, complete, fulfil, to bring to a successful conclusion, put the finishing touches to.

2 Corinthians 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.” It is thought provoking to find the word ‘τελεῖται’ (“perfect”) used because it literally means, “to bring to an end” or “to bring to a close.” After pleading with the Lord three times, Paul gets this communication direct from Jesus - bearing in mind that this was the only time Jesus personally addressed Paul after his conversion on the road to Damascus. Here is an example of God denying a prayer request because He wanted to give something better (though not as comfortable). What we must learn from what Paul told us about this messenger of Satan is that God used it to teach the apostle dependence on Himself and the sufficiency of His amazing grace.

Listen to what the Lord said to Paul; *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My divine strength and power come to a successful conclusion in your human frailties”* (a personal translation). Implying that His strength and power (‘δύναμις’) require our weaknesses and imperfections to be complete! It’s as if the Lord’s “power” homes in our inadequacies because that is the very place where His power will be fulfilled, and where He will receive the most glory. Human weakness provides the opportunity for divine power. This is one of the most important lessons we can learn. Both natural weakness and supernatural power are constantly at work in us, as they were in Paul. The greater we sense our weakness, the more we will sense God’s power (Ephesians 3:16; Philippians 4:13). Someone once said that Christians live on promises, not explanations. This is one of the greatest promises that God has given us to live on.

We may not have experienced as high spiritual highs or as low spiritual lows as Paul did, but we too are in constant need of being aware of God’s supernatural power. Our success does not depend on our natural abilities but on God’s power working in and through us. Human weakness can be a profound blessing if it results in our depending more on God and less on self. Hence, when God does not take away our troubles, He gives sufficient grace for us to have no reason to complain. Grace signifies the “good will” of God towards us, and that is enough to enlighten and motivate us. It is sufficient to strengthen and comfort us in all negative circumstances. His strength “comes to a successful conclusion” in our weakness! Because of this, His grace is manifested and magnified. When we are weak in ourselves, then we are strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we feel that we are weak in ourselves, then we must go to Christ, receive strength from Him, and enjoy the abundant supply of divine strength and grace. God has us covered!