

## **GOD'S PRIORITIES**

2 Corinthians 12:9 ... "And He [Jesus] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'"

It is common to hear sermons and church teachings about how we should prioritize God in our lives. And, that is a very important subject. Nothing can empower you more, guide you more clearly, and satisfy your soul more completely, than by making worship, prayer and Bible reading a priority in your life. Today, let us look at priorities from a difference perspective: God's own priorities.

Today's verse is from Paul's discussion of a handicap that God had allowed in Paul's life to keep him humble. It could have been a chronic illness, or a temptation, or criticisms from other believers. We do not know. Paul said he prayed for God to remove it, but God allowed it to remain in Paul's life to keep him from becoming prideful. In fact, in verse 10 Paul writes: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Paul was a very devout follower of Christ. He is responsible for writing half of the New Testament. So God obviously trusted Paul a great deal. But, Paul was not impervious to temptation and sin. He was a man like us.

The Bible instructs us to pray about anything we want or need. We are told to trust God for healing and to pray for the healing of others. However – and this is important – your health is not God's priority. Your financial condition, housing problems, transportation challenges, college tuition and other issues that make life sometimes hard, are also not God's priority. God's priority is your spiritual condition. He has had a plan for your life since before you were born, and he will do anything necessary to earn your trust and lead you on the path of that plan. He might even allow you to suffer a handicap to get your attention. And, as we see with the Apostle Paul, God might allow that handicap to continue testing you even after you agree to live according to his plan for you.

As today's verse says, God's grace is sufficient for you. And, his strength is made perfect in your weakness. God's plan for your life does not depend upon your abilities and strength, it depends upon your cooperation and his power.

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