

¹ I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ...

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— ⁶ though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. . . .

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

"because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10



**AMAZING
GRACE**

GRACE IS GETTING WHAT YOU WANT THE
MOST WHEN YOU NEED IT THE MOST
WHEN YOU DESERVE IT THE LEAST.

IS GOD'S GRACE STILL AMAZING
WHEN IT COMES TO US IN LESS
THAN AMAZING WAYS?

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

C.S. LEWIS
THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

THERE'S PURPOSE IN OUR PAIN

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

THERE'S PURPOSE IN OUR PAIN

THERE'S A POWER MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

“I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise...and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-5

“The needs for safety, belonging, love relations and for respect can be satisfied only by other people, i.e., only from outside the person. This means considerable dependence on the environment. A person in this dependent position cannot really be said to be governing himself, or in control of his own fate...He must be, to an extent, “other-directed,” and must be sensitive to other people’s approval, affection and good will.”

ABRAHAM H. MASLOW
TOWARD A PSYCHOLOGY OF BEING

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

THERE'S PURPOSE IN OUR PAIN

“...a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9

WE CAN EITHER LET OUR
CIRCUMSTANCES DEFINE WHO OUR
GOD IS, OR WE CAN LET WHO GOD IS
REDEFINE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

“I know God will give me strength. I use to be so mad at Him about the life I had and jealous of all my friends with kids and the story book life, mad that God allowed me to have cancer and that I couldn't have children, and that's when I started drinking and it all went down hill. But all that changed when I met my wife and the first 5 years were great and then she got sick and that's how I've learned to love the Lord. He knew the love of my life was going to have a life-threatening illness that no man would stick around for. They would have packed up and said see ya. He knew I would never leave her side and would take care of her everyday and continue to love her.” ...

“My story is the perfect example to others of how the Lord is great. He put me in the spot I was supposed to be in with a beautiful woman that loved me for me. And no matter how hard it is to hear her life is limited I would not trade it for anything in the world. I look at my life now as a true blessing and a life that people can look at and learn that God truly does have a plan for everyone. I look back at a life I thought was hell and I didn't want anything to do with God, but today I'm thanking Him for everyday of the life He allowed me to have. I feel He has me here so I can be the difference in someone else's life and that's my beautiful wife.”

GRACE IS FAR BETTER THAN RELIEF

THERE'S A REASON WE BOAST

THERE'S PURPOSE IN OUR PAIN

THERE'S A POWER MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that **the power of Christ** may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be **content**. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us... for God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:3-8

“For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10



**AMAZING
GRACE**