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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Fred Perez  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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## My Grace is Sufficient for You

Have you ever noticed that from the day we are born to the day we get old, we will always be asking for something from those around us, or we will be asking something from God? When we are children, we ask our parents for those things we need and want. A good example of this can be seen when our moms give us certain foods to eat such as vegetables and lean meats. These types of foods are good for us in helping us to be healthy and strong. On the other hand, we will want to eat the "good foods" such as cakes, cookies, candy and soft drinks. And as children we all know what most moms will tell us... "NO!" You see, our needs and our wants are sometimes the same and yet most of the time they are different. Our needs are what we really need to stay healthy and our wants are our desires that we think we need. A good example of one who asked God for certain wants and needs in life was Paul. He prayed three times that the Lord would remove a thorn in his flesh, a messenger of Satan, but the Lord would not do it. The reason was that Paul could boast all the more about his weakness, so

that Christ's power might rest on him as seen in **II Cor. 12:7-10**: *"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 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. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong"*

As we read about Paul, we really don't know what Paul's thorn in the flesh was. Whatever this thorn was we do know it caused Paul much pain. We do know that this thorn was a hindrance to Paul's ministry and he prayed three times for the removal of this thorn, but God refused to do so. We all know that according to the scriptures Paul was a very self-sufficient man. He was a tent maker by trade, in his early years had been trained as a Pharisee, after

becoming a Christian went on three missionary journeys to preach the word of God to the Gentiles, and went on a journey to Rome to be a witness for Christ to all those in Rome. God would not remove Paul's thorn in the flesh, however, He did promise to demonstrate His power in Paul. The fact that God's power can be displayed in our weakness should give us today as Christians the courage we need to carry on. As Christians, we should recognize our own limitations and weakness, while trusting in God for our strength. We must rely on God for our strength rather than our own energy, strength, effort and talents. Our own weakness not only helps us to develop our dependence upon God, it also deepens our faith in God, and we must learn to trust God in all circumstances in life. (Phil. 4:11-13). When we as Christians are strong in our own abilities and our own resources we will tend to do God's work on our own, perhaps forgetting God and looking only to what we have done. when we depend on self, we may no longer depend on God to have His way with us. We today, like Paul, petition God in many ways. Yet, God does not always give us the answer we

want to hear. We, like Paul, need to put our trust in God and depend on God and to let Him have His way with us. Only when we let God have His way with us will His power make us more effective for His plan for us to get the work done.

As Christians today, we need to follow Paul's example as we see that he would use every opportunity to preach to those around him about the Word of God. In II Cor. 11:16, Paul describes all the suffering he had to go through, but during these hard times God's grace and mercy would always work through Paul's weakness to strengthen Paul to do God's will. When God, Our heavenly father, answers our prayers by doing what is best for us, our ability to accept His answer will show or manifest our trust in Him. It is easy to say we have faith when all is well. But when God does not answer our prayers in the way we expect God to answer us, do we still



let God work through us or do we lose faith? You see God, like our earthly parents, will give us only what is good for us. He knows what is best. If we have to go through hard times to grow us up, He will allow it. Like Paul, we need to keep fighting our adversary, the devil, and keep the faith while letting God's grace be seen in us no matter what. That is why every time we pray for anything we will hear the words, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

-Bill Davis