



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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God always "equips the called."

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12: 7b-10

I just open my Bible, and there it was 2 Corinthians 12. I think the concept that Paul speaks about in chapter 12, particularly vs. 7 to 10, is one that we should all meditate on, especially during these days when we feel our lives are on hold.

I really do not know exactly what it was that was such a source of pain for Paul; it obviously was something that created limitations and at least some minor to moderate disability on his part. Perhaps it was an illness. He had obviously prayed his heart out asking that God would remove that thorn in the flesh. But it had not happened. Instead, God sent him something much more valuable. God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

When was the last time you felt God pushing you and poking you to do a certain task or get involved in a particular project that really and truly was something you felt inadequate and unprepared for? Something you knew was important but you felt strongly that your gifts and talents did not match up to the gifts and talents needed to make the project a success. But somehow you could not back away. And amazingly enough, God used you in a powerful way to do what He needed done. And the experience proved to you that God does not usually "call the equipped," but God always "equips the called." In other words, God's grace was more than sufficient.

There are a lot of needs around us right now. There are a lot of lonely people, hurting people, confused people, angry people, and frightened people. You might be one of them. And if you

are, spend a little time today trying to grab a hold of God's promise that "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Try to identify your greatest weakness this day - is it impatience? Is it fear of contracting Covid-19? Is it loneliness due to the quarantine? Is it financial worry? Is it something else? Scripture tells us that God wants to use that weakness to show His strength. Why not spend a few minutes today asking God to help you turn your weakness into strength?

We pray: Loving God, life most of the time these days feels out of control and it is hard to know which way to look. Help us to remember your promise that when we are weak, with your help, we are strong. Use us today to bring glory to your name. Amen.

“Be a Channel of God’s Grace”

Pastor Pablo

August 12th, 2020

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>

Daily words of wisdom and faith including quotes, scripture, questions, and the lectionary bible readings.