

Ii Corinthians 12:9

by Hans R. Waldvogel

The sermon emphasizes the importance of surrendering to God's power and trusting in His strength, rather than relying on our own strength and self-reliance.

Duration: 14:59

Scripture: Psalm 103:3, Isaiah 53:4, Matthew 5:3, Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 2:8

Topics: "Grace"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of denying oneself and seeking a deeper knowledge of Christ Jesus. He highlights that there is a great search among the people of God, but only a few truly have this life that is necessary. The preacher encourages the audience to hold on to Jesus and allow His grace to shine through their negative and upside-down lives. He reminds them that through Jesus, there is no condemnation and that His grace provides strength and righteousness. The sermon concludes with the preacher urging the audience to look to Jesus in the midst of storms and to trust in His all-sufficient grace.

Transcript

My infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me, that's a lesson that we all ought to learn and which is very difficult to learn unless we really love Jesus Christ with all our hearts and then we'll find out that his strength is made perfect in weakness and that our weakness is all of them, our vessels to be filled with the excellency of his power like the sickness our brother tells about it was just another occasion for them to find out how wonderful Jesus is and how able he is and on the Lord Jesus Christ says my grace is sufficient for thee it means that his grace is there to fill every need of your daily life we attach too much importance to ourselves when we think that we've got to do this and we've got to do that and we have to present something to God the thing that I

need to present to God is an empty vessel that has no plans and no power in itself but that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ at every turn of the way and whatever problems come my way they're introduced to me that I might know how wonderfully Jesus Christ can solve them as long as I dilly-dally with them and try to solve them I may feel very important and finally go down in the struggle with an unsolved problem but if I see Jesus Christ over my problem and I stand aside and I say now Jesus how are you going to solve that I'll be very much interested to see how you'll do it and I haven't got the least question in my mind that your grace won't be sufficient for this problem why that's why you brought it to my attention it looks very much

as if it was my problem but it isn't never I may be

found in a storm that seems to swallow my boat but that storm is not to drown me he is the master of that storm wake him up he says oh ye of little faith how is it that you have so little faith why this storm has been allowed by the father to make you see what a wonderful savior you have and so as I look to him instead of looking at the storm like Peter did I can walk on the waves and I'll find how very marvelously his grace is sufficient for me at this time for my sicknesses doesn't he say surely himself took our infirmities our infirmities doesn't he say who forgiveth all thine iniquities and healeth all thy diseases that scripture can only be fulfilled as all your diseases are brought to him to be healed by him why Jesus Christ is the healing of all your diseases Jesus Christ is the

answer to all your prayers Jesus Christ is the guarantee that God gives you that every promise made by him in the Bible shall be fulfilled for all the promises of God in him are yea and in him amen to the glory of God by us and that's why he says blessed are the poor in spirit those who don't attach any importance to themselves but they see the great king why theirs is the kingdom of heaven the king is here ready to reign he has all power over all flesh God has given it to him as long as you allow yourself to be troubled with your flesh or you allow sin or the devil to have charge of your flesh you're going to be very much disappointed and defeated but let Jesus Christ come upon the scene turn it over to him give yourself a living sacrifice into the hands of this great savior and see what

will happen presently you'll find this flesh crucified Jesus Christ thank God has got all power over all my flesh it isn't mine anymore I've turned it over to him and thank God in my very weaknesses I triumph I glory in my infirmity because there the power of Christ has a chance to manifest itself have you begun to learn this lesson a little bit then you'll never be disappointed again you'll never again be discouraged you'll never again be tempted to look at yourself and to complain and moan about yourself my what a dreadful thing this is my wretched man that I am you'll turn away from yourself unto him and you'll say thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord there is now no condemnation his grace his grace oh that's the wonderful word in the Bible great undeserved mercy that supplies the

sinner with righteousness supplies the weak with strength oh God the very strength of the son of God his mind is perfected in my weakness let me no longer dishonor God by complaining over my weakness I remember when as a little boy my father had bought a hammer for me but he said hunch is too little I'll wait a while but you know my sister got wind of it and if you want anything to be communicated any knowledge why telegraph or telephone or tell a woman and presently I found out that on the closet there was a package for me and I couldn't wait until Christmas came along and when I got that camera my brother and I started to take pictures my we were excited there wasn't anybody in the whole town that had a camera and so naturally I was the envy of all the kids and one of the first patients

that had to sit for me was my mother I remember how I made her sit for a whole minute staring into the lens of that camera because plates were very slow and there I still see my poor dear mother my handsome mother my pretty mother sitting there in the corner of the room and I was straining that camera on her and naturally as soon as I had taken that exposure went into the dark room and put that plate into the developer had a little red lamp there but horror of horror when that thing was developed and I held it up against the lamp instead of my mother there was a Zulu camper on that picture why a negro her face was black and her hair was white and her eyes were white and her hands were black and her fingernails and her nice white blouse that turned black and I thought goodness what's the

matter with this camera everything is in reverse everything was in reverse what in the world can you do with a machine like this until I went to the directions again and then I saw I learned something like this is a negative what you've got to do is make a copy let the sunlight shine through it and that's what you are and I am we're negative everything's upside down in our life and all our own efforts and all our own strength is negative everything we've done has been crooked and and cockeyed but let the sunlight of his grace shine through it and there will be a purpose and a reason for everything in your life and you'll find out that all things work together for good to them that love God your very weaknesses turn into strength and your very defeat turn into victory and while it humbles

you deeply to see that you can and you don't and you don't know Jesus Christ can and he does know and that creates within you that simple abandonment to the son of God where where you learn to say not I not I not I not I not I but Christ but Christ it is really but Christ Christ really comes and shines through this negative he really comes into his own he really comes and reigns where sin reigned before and where weakness defeated me there the strength and power of the son of God is manifested and little by little I wake up and I say isn't he wonderful yes he is wonderful and you will never know how wonderful Jesus is until you've accepted him like that until you've settled it between yourself and God that it isn't yourself but Christ what of all our own efforts amounted to but to make us

realize how very helpless we are what great fizzles we are have you ever come to the conclusion that all your own efforts in the ministry amount to nothing but defeat oh my god how many many ministers still minister in the flesh they do things by their own mind they think they know how to teach people they think they understand the bible they have never capitulated they've never come to the place of utter abandonment to God and utter self-abnegation and absolute poverty of spirit where they have really acknowledged that God alone knows and they don't know and that it must be Christ in them and that without him they can do nothing what does Jesus mean when he says in the glory that thou has given me I have given them that they all may be one as thou father art in me and I in thee why the

son of God became the son of God when he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and when he never again took a step never spoke a word never made a move never had a feeling of his own but he could positively say he that hath seen me hath seen the father every atom of his being was charged with the power of the almighty God he was a willing vessel a willing and an abandoned instrument in the hand of God and when he was crucified he was simply abandoned to the father he simply did the father's will and that glory he has communicated to you and to me he says even so he that eateth me shall live by me oh wonder of wonders I don't have to live my own life anymore his grace supplies me with life abundance why should I struggle to live when Jesus Christ poured in his own life like a mighty Amazon

river moment by moment when in my very weaknesses he wants to perfect his strength but you know we don't love him enough we don't believe him enough we really don't believe him enough we love ourselves too much and so we try to put ourselves on a pedestal and when we don't succeed we go into a dump and then we create this self-inflicted humility oh I'm no good and I am nothing and I I don't know how and so on and so on you don't believe it anyway oh my lord and my god when you really know it you're happy over it you're so glad to be an empty vessel empty to be filled with him oh hallelujah and your very nothingness meets the almightiness of God and becomes a vessel to be filled with him that's what God's waiting for and he doesn't ask how little you are but he asks whether you believe it

whether you really want to come down he says thus says the high and lofty one that inhabits this eternity I dwell in the high and lofty place with him also that is full and of a contrite spirit and trembles at my word

and if we rise at all we're going to thrive to come down and we're going to welcome trials that come our way whatever they may be it is of course the devil that often brings these trials upon us it's the devil that brings sickness he fights us but hallelujah he's defeated before he starts because Jesus Christ has won that battle for us and he's only waiting for us to get out of the way that he might come forth and show forth the victory of Calvary and therein lies the battle for you and for me to stand our grounds he says by faith he stands and isn't it easy to believe when

you see Calvary and you see that that victory has been accomplished and has been finished for you your name is attached to it it's addressed to you and oh how many many people of God are constantly defeating the Lord and defeating his plan because they're not willing to fight the fight of faith then they want to fight all right but not the fight of faith that lets Jesus Christ manifest his victory in their defeat his strength in their weakness oh nobody likes to say no I nobody likes to see themselves like that unless you've seen the king or once you've seen him you'll fade out of sight you deny yourself you don't want any more to do with this self-life you count it but refuse for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord oh to know him and the power of his resurrection is

still the call over every life in this little room and where is God going to find the people that will enter in upon his plan today there's a great stir among the people of God but you'd be surprised if you knew how few people have this life that they must have Jesus himself but you've got it and I have it oh let's walk out on it this day on this armistice day it'll mean something it'll mean a great deal to you and much more to Jesus Christ because he's waiting waiting to be revealed right now in your life waiting to reveal himself as the altogether lovely if he's the most desired of your heart and the best beloved hang on to him like that he won't leave you he'll come and oh my God I know the sons of God will come forth one of these days and I trust that it's speedily oh Jesus and who

are they why they're the ones whose lives are hid with Christ in God who are crucified with him or dead with him but whose lives are hid with Christ in God for mine the things that are above where Christ hid it oh Jesus I pray thee anoint my eyes this morning when I said that I might see make me to see thee Lord Jesus Jesus Jesus

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