

SUFFICIENT GRACE

II CORINTHIANS 12:7

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8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient** for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

[STOP]

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SUFFICIENT: arkeo {ar-keh'-o}
be content, be enough, to be possessed of unflinching strength; to be strong, to be satisfied, to be contented.

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44 **There's so many of us likes to testify or likes to think that we're insufficient; and therefore, we make that an excuse, "I have no education; I have no ability; I'm unable to do this." And if you keep that up and do that in that way, keep going like that, then you can't 'mount to anything. But the very thing that we make excuses by our weaknesses, God uses that very thing to tackle the job with.** See? He waits for us to get to that condition so that He can use us. We--we take the excuses and say, "Well, I--I--I--I'm can't do this, I'm insufficient. I--I can't do it." And **God takes that very thing to do the job with. That's true. That's the reason why that He--He chooses us, because we're in that condition.** Now, that sounds strange, but just a few minutes we'll get to the reason of it, if God being willing. We--we find out, just as we've been reading, that weaknesses and rejections... And **we find out that those people who are the weakest and the rejected by the outside world, is God's heroes, that conqueror up in the front line, takes those who are--are--feel themselves unworthy.**

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52 Notice that it takes the--the weakest and the rejected, and **practically every hero God ever had on the front line was that type of person.** A person that was rejected, a person that thought he was insufficient, a person that had no ability at all, **then that person's just in good shape so God can start using them.** That's right. When they feel like that they can't, they haven't got nothing, that's when God can take ahold of them and do something with them. See? When... **But when we are thinking that we're able to do it, then God can't use us because we're wanting to do it ourselves.**

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56 The important thing, one of the important things that we must master... Now, remember this, and especially you young preachers, and lay members alike. **There's one thing that we've got to master if we expect to fulfill God's desire in our life; that is, we have to master the thought of human**

ability. If we ever get to a spot where we think that we can do it with our own intelligence and our own abilities, **we've got to master that in such a way that we can get rid of the thing and lay it aside so that God can use us. That's right.**

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57 **And make a complete surrender.** We cannot use one ability. We've got to make a complete surrender. And to come to God, you've got to surrender to Him both soul, body, and spirit. **Everything that you are has to be surrendered to God in order that He can work His will in you and in me. Now, that's hard; I know; 'cause we're always wanting to put our part in,** something that we know, you know, that we want to do it. We say, "Well, I--I just know it should be done this way." **But as long as you're doing it that way it's going to be wrong, and God will never use that effort.....**

II CORINTHIANS 12:10

10 Therefore I take ***PLEASURE** in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

PLEASURE: eudokeo {yoo-dok-eh'-o}
be well pleased, be (one's) good pleasure, it seems good to one, to do willingly; to be ready to, to prefer, choose rather

HEBREWS 11:32

32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

GIDEON

JUDGES 6:11

11 ¶ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, **thou mighty man of valour.**

13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 **And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.**

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

VERSE 25

JUDGES 6:25

25 ¶ And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock,

and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, **because he feared his father's household**, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.

JUDGES 7:2

2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, **Mine own hand hath saved me.**

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. **And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.**

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, **The people are yet too many**; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were **three hundred men**: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

36.....Gideon chose his army one time by the ones that stooped and bowed down and lapped the water, or the ones that stood up and got the water. You see? So the ones that fell, **they'd been--been prostrating themselves before idols, and he knew they wasn't subjects to go.** So the one who stood with their eye up watching all the time. That's the way we do: stand and pray. Now, I believe in kneeling and praying too; but, standing and praying, I think it just means something to us somehow.....

JUDGES 7:7

7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, **By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you,** and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

JUDGES 7:16

16 ¶ And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with **empty** pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

JUDGES 8:27

27 And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

28 Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

HEBREWS 11:32

32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of **Barak**, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

JUDGES 4:4

4 ¶ And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

7 And **I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera {see-ser-aw'}**, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.

9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera {see-ser-aw'} into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

10 ¶ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.

VERSE 13

JUDGES 4:13

13 And Sisera **{see-ser-aw'}** gathered together all his chariots, even **nine hundred chariots of iron**, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14 And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15 **And the LORD discomfited Sisera**, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16 But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera {see-ser-aw'} fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

17 ¶ Howbeit Sisera **{see-ser-aw'}** fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle.

19 And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.

20 Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No.

21 Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

22 And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera **{see-ser-aw'}**, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.