

The Graces of a Christian #7 — TRUST

A Study on 2 Corinthians

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2 Cor. 12:7-10

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰That 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.

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 11-12

1. We Can Trust God’s P _____ : Don’t Be D _____

1:18-22; 11:3-4, 13-15

2. We Can Trust God’s P _____ : Don’t Be D _____

11:16-33

3. We Can Trust God’s P _____ : Don’t D _____

11:23-33

4. We Can Trust God’s P _____ : Don’t Be D _____

12:7-10, 19-21

WHAT DOES A GRACE-FILLED CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

CHRISTIAN GRACES #7 – Discussion Guide

- What types of people do you automatically mistrust (e.g. car salesmen, lawyers, flatterers, etc.)? Why? Is it fair? What kinds of qualities do you look for in a person that lead you to trust them? Would you characterize yourself as a trusting person? What's the difference between being trusting and being gullible?
- Why do you think some people have a hard time trusting God? Can you describe a time in your life when you didn't fully trust Him? What was happening and why did you doubt God? What did you learn from the experience?
- What promises of God are the most precious to you? Are there any that you aren't sure of? Are there any you think have been distorted by people or the church in general? How do we guard ourselves against being duped by false teachers? Why do some people seem to be so gullible and easily deceived? What is the cure?
- Have you ever suffered from "control issues"? Is it hard for you to trust someone else's plans when you don't fully understand them? Do you feel like you always need to be in charge? When life is difficult, do you ever struggle to surrender control to God? Why? How can we keep life's problems from distracting us from God's plan for our lives?
- Share an experience where you were sure God divinely protected you. How did you know it was God? Why doesn't He protect us from *every* trial and heartache? How can we keep ourselves from despair in the difficult times?
- What are the greatest obstacles in your life right now that keep you from doing great things for God? Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How can weaknesses actually be "good" things? Does that mean God wants us to be weak, timid or sin-prone? What does He give us the strength and power to do? How does He do that? Why is it important to trust in His power instead of your own?
- What does "trust" look like? How does it affect how we live day by day?