Amazing Grace
Sustaining and Sufficient Grace
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Is Grace enough?

I. Saving grace vs. sustaining grace.
   A. Saving grace.
   Ephesians 2:8–9 NKJV
   “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

   B. Sustaining grace.
   2 Corinthians 12:9 RSV
   “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

   Philippians 1:6 ESV
   “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

   Max Lucado
   “Sustaining grace meets us at our point of need and equips us with courage, wisdom, and strength.”
II. Where is God’s grace when we’re hurting?
   A. Paul’s testimony.
   2 Corinthians 12:7–10 UPDATED NIV
   “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.”

   B. Old Testament reminders.
   Joshua 1:5 NIV
   “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

   Deuteronomy 4:31 NIV
   “For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you.”

   Max Lucado
   “Sustaining grace does not promise the absence of struggle but the presence of God.”

   C. Through our suffering, we’re being made into the likeness of Christ.
   Hebrews 4:15 ESV
   “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
III. Sustaining grace in action.
   A. Casting our cares at the foot of the cross.
   1 Peter 5:7 NIV
   “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

   B. A bottomless well
   Max Lucado
   “God has enough grace to solve every dilemma you face, wipe every
   tear that you cry, and answer every question you ask.”

   Romans 8:32 NIV
   “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how
   will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

IV. Conclusion: Is grace enough?
   A. Questions for reflection:
   Where have you seen God’s sustaining grace recently in your life?
   Do you trust it to see you through your next trial?
Supporting Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:9 RSV
“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Isaiah 30:19 MSG
“Cry for help and you’ll find it’s grace and more grace. The moment he hears, he’ll answer.”

John 1:16 NASB
“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.”

Romans 8:32 NIV
“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.”

Deuteronomy 4:31 NIV
“For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you.”

Romans 8:31 NIV
“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT
“My grace is all you need.”