

Sufficient Grace for Today

September 30, 2018

Scripture Text: II Corinthians 12:1-6 NKJV *It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.*

VERSE 1 *It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:* Paul has every reason to boast about his accomplishments. **Philippians 3:4-7** **4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.** What do you consider loss for gaining Christ as your Lord and Savior? Do you find yourself boasting on your accomplishments in your life, rather than the impact that the gospel has accomplished in your life for eternity? Paul realized that the way up (visions and revelations of Christ) is on the road less traveled “[Humility Freeway](#)”.

God will always resist the proud, while giving grace and more grace to the [humble](#). James 4:6 NIV

VERSE 2 *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.* Paul is sharing his revelation of a man caught up to the third heaven. Some theologians surmise that Paul is really referring to himself in generalities as to not toot his horn rather than have the attention focused on himself.

What is the Third Heaven Paul is referring to? [The first heaven](#) consisted of the atmosphere where the clouds and birds were. [The second heaven](#) was where the sun, stars, and moon was. [The third heaven](#) was the dwelling place of God.

How often do you think about going to Heaven and leaving this world of woe? If heaven is your goal and destiny, lets encourage one another to focus on the prize and not the fallout as the world turns it's back on [Godliness](#).

VERSE 3 *And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows* Paul is reflecting on his experience of whether it was in the body or spirit that he received the revelation. Peter in Acts 10:10 fell into a trance while waiting to eat. What was being revealed to him in those moments was that he would share the Gospel to Cornelius and Non-Jews in Caesarea. Some events in the spirit realm may occur in your life that you may question whether it was real or not. Paul resolves that God knows and that was his final answer.

VERSE 4 *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.* Jesus said to the repentant thief on the cross next to Him that today you will be with me in Paradise. Listen, the body dies but the spirit lives forever. Jesus's physical body dyed like any human being dies. The thief died but his spirit went to the [Third Heaven](#) (**Paradise**). Jesus returned to His earthly body after three days and presented Himself to His disciples in the physical realm. Jesus returned but the thief did not because he has to wait for the bodily resurrection of the dead.

Paul heard inexpressible words that are unlawful for human beings to speak. English or any other language will not be spoken in Heaven. The languages we speak today, no matter how beautiful, sexy or good the sounding is a curse. Man sinned in his attempt to reach God on his own efforts in building the Tower of Babel in Genesis chapter 11. Formally there was one language that was spoken among all people. I personally believe that our new language will be a heavenly language, not an earthly language.

VERSE 5 *Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.* Paul has chosen to boast in his infirmities and not in his accomplishments. How many of us have learned to boast in your infirmities? I was at death's door but the **LORD** raised me up! I am single but the **LORD** has comforted me! I was depressed and lonely but the **LORD** give me friends! I was in prison but the **LORD** freed me! I was in between a rock and a hard place but **LORD** delivered me! Our infirmities are a way that we glorify **GOD** because we join Christ in His sufferings. It is in our sufferings that we are open to God's presence because in those moments we earnestly are seeking God's will.

When we are physically afflicted that is our time to connect with God, who is Spirit and Truth. Thank the Lord with me for our momentary afflictions.

VERSE 6 *For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.* Paul reveals his temptation to boast as any other person exercising their freedom of speech. He knew the weakness of the flesh and how people would view what he shared from his personal experiences. Every believer is not on the same spiritual level, though we desire it to be so, as we walk together humbly before our God. I Corinthians 10:23 NIV **"I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but not everything is constructive.**

APPLICATIONS:

God's grace allows us to be human as well as a spiritual person.

Receiving His grace allows us to walk hand in hand with one another.