



## **Grace is Greater Than My Struggle**

*Stephen Miller – May 7, 2017*

But sin did not, and does not, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it is sin versus grace, grace wins hands down.

*Romans 5:20 (Message)*

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So, I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. *Romans 7:15-16 (NLT)*

Grace is the **SOURCE** of our **ATTITUDE**  
and the **STRENGTH** to **ENDURE**.

... So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NLT)*

### **1. Our ATTITUDES are a direct reflection of our HEART.**

*That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses...*

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. *Philippians 2:5 (NLT)*

### **2. Our TIMING is not God's TIMING.**

*Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need..."*

**We want to know WHY and WHEN**

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. *Galatians 6:9 (NLT)*

**3. Our ENDURANCE comes from God's STRENGTH - NOT our ABILITIES.**

*For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.  
*1 Corinthians 13:7 (NLT)*

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:13 (NLT)*

**Remember, that no matter what we face, GRACE WINS.**

**Upcoming Teaching Schedule:**

**May 14:**

- Alamo: 8:00am & 5:00pm - Crystal
- Alamo: 9:30 & 11:15am - Crystal (*streaming from Dublin*)
- Dublin: 9:30 & 11:15am - Crystal

**May 21:**

- Alamo: Doug all AM services.
- Dublin: 9:30 & 11:15am - Doug (*streaming from Alamo*)

**Also, mark your calendars for May 21  
Kingdom Builders at 5pm in Alamo,  
with special guest: Nancy Ortberg  
(*Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend*)**

**May 28:**

- Alamo: 8, 9:30 & 11:15am - Stephen
- Alamo: 5pm - Ray
- Dublin: 9:30 & 11:15am - Ray

# Getting **CONNECTED**

## Life Group Discussion & Questions

**BREAKING THE ICE:** What was a season in your life that made you so happy that you wished it would never end?

What is one season in your life that you wouldn't want to repeat; a moment that was very hard to get through?

### **DIGGING IN:**

1. Think about the fact that Paul was one of the greatest, most godly men who ever lived, and yet God did not say "yes" in answer to his prayers. What is God saying to you through this truth?
2. Share a time (maybe that time is now) that God did not seem to cooperate with your plans and your prayers? How did you respond? How did it turn out?
3. Share a time that God's strength was made perfect in your weakness?
4. What words does Paul use to show that he prizes weakness, rather than merely putting up with weakness? In addition, why does he value weakness so highly?
5. Why is human weakness a prerequisite for the display of divine strength?
6. What role can weakness and struggle play in the church today?

### **BRINGING IT HOME:**

Be encouraged and don't give up. God is at work far more than we will ever know.

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. *Galatians 6:9 (NLT)*