

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 12:6-9)

Although if I should wish to boast, I would not be foolish, for I would be telling the truth. But I refrain, so that no one may think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me because of the abundance of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – God's grace is enough for us to overcome any situation or evil

God's grace is available to us to overcome any weakness, vice, sinful habits, temptation, evil bondage, trial or adversity. To walk faithfully on the true path of the Lord is never easy. However, God has made available to us His power to overcome any situation through the divine graces Jesus merited for us through His life, death and resurrection. For any difficulty that we may encounter, Jesus suffered and merited for us the corresponding grace. Christ is made poor so that we can become rich. *For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake He became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).* Jesus heals our every ill and empowers us in our every weakness through the suffering of His own Body. By His Wounds, we are healed (cf. Isaiah 53:5).

We should never be in bondage to our sinful past if we have already repented of our sins. *For our sake He made Him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).* Through our true repentance and the power of God's grace, we can stand in front of God as if we never sinned! That is what Jesus has done for us! If we have already truly repented of our sinful past, we should never let the Deceiver tempt us to believe there is unfinished business. *Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not. See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers (Isaiah 43:18-19).*

Christ is obedient to God unto death so that we can have the power to be obedient to God unto death. *(Christ) Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).* The first Adam brought down the whole human race with the Original Sin but the second Adam, Jesus Christ more than compensated and remedied the sinful action of the first Adam. In Christ we become the righteousness of God and co-heirs with Christ for the Kingdom of God! Nothing is impossible for God. God can even draw good out of evil for those who love Him (cf. Romans 8:28). Thus, we can trust God absolutely because His love is unconditional and His power limitless.

We have the power to seek God first even in this world that denies the existence of God and scorns everything divine. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* God the Father made such a tremendous personal sacrifice when He decided to send Jesus, His only begotten Son to redeem the world through His Blood shed on Calvary. Such over-powering action of God's pure, selfless love strengthens mightily every one of His human children so that all may have the power to carry out His commandment to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love others in the way we love ourselves. Love is the most powerful force in the entire universe because God is love and all His power flows through His love. Only through love, God (Jesus) suffered and died for sinful people, and only through love, sinful people (martyrs and saints) suffered and died for God.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You died so that I may die to sin and overcome the power of eternal death. In Your resurrection, I rise to a new life of grace. You live a life of sacrifice and suffering during Your time on earth in order to gain for me every grace and to set an example for me. To purify my body, You allowed Your own Body to be cruelly beaten and scourged with whips equipped with hooks. To humble my proud spirit, You allowed Your divine Head to be beaten and crowned with a crown of thorns. To heal the wounds of my rejection, You allowed Yourself to be rejected, mocked and persecuted by Your very own people. To give me the power of forgiveness, You extend Your love and forgiveness to every sinner no matter how many times they fall from grace. You heal my every ill and empower me to deal with any life situation through the merits of Your own suffering. I consecrate to You through Mary my entire life, joy and sufferings in gratitude for all You have done for me. Please grant me all the graces to love You as You love me and to fulfill Your will every day. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk