



2 Corinthians 12:7

- Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Corinthians 12:8, 9

- Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.
- 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

The Word “Grace”

- Always associated with superlatives – (Jn. 1:16 Eph. 1:7, 8; 1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Cor. 9:8, 14)
 - “Grace upon grace...”
 - “Riches of Grace” “lavished” (ESV)
 - Overflowed (ESV) “More than abundant”
 - “Abound”
 - “Surpassing”

The Word “Grace”

- We associate it with salvation (Ephesians 2:8)
- But, it even goes beyond that, indicating God’s approval (James 1:18)

Many do not believe grace is sufficient

- The prosperity gospel



'Creflo Dollar'



“Some people come to me and say,, “I came here to seek peace and not money. I tell them, “You need money or you’re not going to have peace. Some people say that it all has to do with peace, joy and love. No, it all has to do with money.”

Many do not believe grace is sufficient

- The prosperity gospel
- The gospel of health



God's power is perfected in weakness

- It helped Paul not to exalt himself

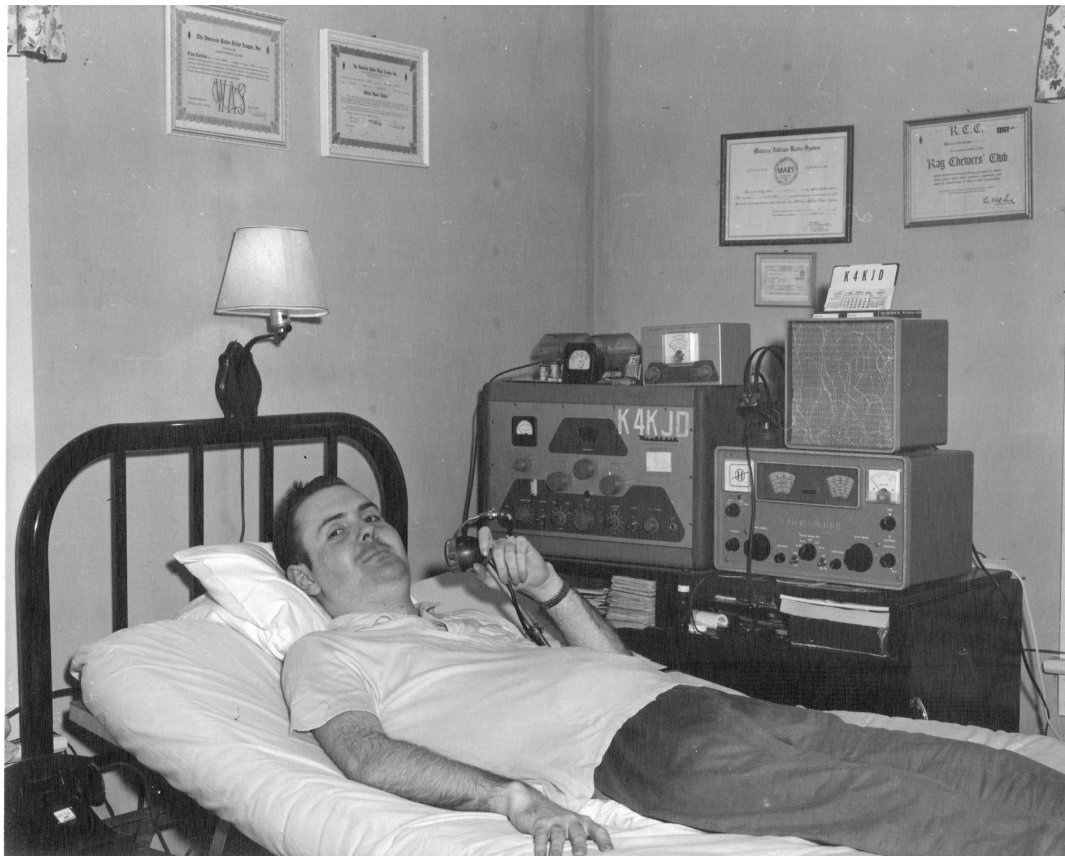
2 Corinthians 9b

- Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:10

- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

“When I am weak, then I am strong”



“When I am weak, then I am strong”



“You’ve had two heart attacks”



Dreams versus reality

- The Dreams of Youth
- The reality of life



“My grace is
sufficient for you.”