

# FRET

## SHARE

If you took a personal inventory of your faith, would you say your faith in God is everything you want it to be?

## SEEK

### Fret and Faith

In 2 Corinthians 12.7, Paul describes a “thorn in flesh” that he constantly experienced. Many have debated just what exactly that thorn was, but context gives us a little insight into the reason: to keep him from becoming conceited, and that he would rest on God’s grace. This thorn actually led Paul to praise God all the more, because in Paul’s weakness God was made perfect and strong (2 Corinthians 12.9-10).

Faith is a great worry for many. Some worry that the Lord is not first in all they do. Others wish they were closer to God than they currently are, among other things. Paul’s words and faith can help us here. “My grace is sufficient for you,” God told Paul. This became a tenant of the Christian faith, that God’s grace is what carries us along and empowers us for God’s sake, and not our own efficacy. We do not have to strive to earn God’s favor or salvation, but can trust in God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. God’s grace is sufficient for us!

Does this mean that we just wait to mature in Christ, hoping that it might one day zap us into greater faith? By no means! We are wise to examine ourselves and pay attention to our desires to grow in holiness and service to God. That type of thorn may keep us humble. At the same time we trust that God is doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves in the lifelong journey of faith.

# SEE

## FRET AND FAITH

MUCH CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS TOPIC. IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY THAT SOME DESIRE TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH BUT CANNOT FIND THE WAY FORWARD. THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO BE GIVEN. IF YOU FEEL THIS WAY, PLEASE REACH OUT TO A FRIEND OR GROUP LEADER AND SPEAK HONESTLY. WHAT ACTIVE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO HAVE A RICHER LIFE OF FAITH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK PAUL MEANT WHEN HE SAID HE HAD A "THORN" IN HIS SIDE? WHY DO YOU THINK HE SHARED THIS WITH THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH IN 2 CORINTHIANS 12?

WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF GOD'S GRACE? WHEN GOD SAYS THAT HIS "GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU" WHAT DOES HE MEAN? HOW DOES THIS BRING COMFORT TO YOU? DOES THIS QUOTE TROUBLE YOU? CHALLENGE YOU? FRUSTRATE YOU? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

"GOD ACCEPTS US AS WE ARE, BUT HE DOES NOT LEAVE US WHERE WE ARE." THIS IS A QUOTE OFTEN USED TO EXPLAIN HOW GOD SAVES US AS THE SINNERS WE ARE, BUT THAT WE DO NOT REMAIN IN THE SAME SINFUL STATE IN WHICH WE ONCE LIVED. GOD WANTS US TO MATURE AND GROW INTO BEAUTIFUL AND SHINING CHRISTIANS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS QUOTE AND EXPLANATION? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another