

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Undeserved Grace" 9/7/22

*Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away. But God replied,  
"My gift of undeserved grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak."*

*So, if Christ keeps giving me His power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am.*

*Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings if it is for Christ.*

*Because when I am weak, I am strong. (II Cor 12:8-10)*

One does not normally see weakness as a power play. We don't see weakness as a strength. It doesn't seem to make sense, but that doesn't make it any less true.

We don't know what caused Paul's suffering. We know on one level the difficulties he faced as a Christ follower in the Roman Empire, but was there a physical malady? We are never told, maybe this is so we can identify. We can fill in the blank with our weakness – chronic disease, developmental delays, learning disabilities, loss, grief, feelings of shame or unworthiness.

At times we may each go through a period of weakness, or we may live constantly with a physical weakness. Our lives may not reflect what we think of as "the perfect life." Maybe we are not living the life we wish we could, we realize our life is not a Hallmark movie, not every minute makes a good Facebook post. Whose does? Everybody has their own difficult decisions, struggles, sufferings, times they don't know how they can continue.

We can't compare our lives to another's. We are given only grace enough to live our own life, to rise to our challenges, to walk with God on our journey.

Paul tells the Corinthians, and us, in times of weakness, when we are not in control, when we can't change the situation, God's power becomes evident. God gives to us undeserved grace. God is seen in how we react, how we deal, and in what we do in with our "weakness." God gives us the ability, the wisdom, the strength to walk on, to mount up with wings as an eagle, to continue, to show the world – and ourselves - we can, and with God's help, we will.

We don't let our weakness define us, we show the world, in the Lord, we have the strength to overcome it, to accomplish in spite of it. Others watch us give God the credit, the honor, the glory for who we are and what we can do. God is glorified in and through our weaknesses. It's not always easy to look at our conditions, our struggles and think anything positive can come from them; but it can, because of God. That doesn't mean it's easy to live with or through our difficulties. There will be times of self-pity or sorrow. A loss is a loss and we grieve it. But then we give it to God. Then God gives to us undeserved grace. We put our eyes back on God and see how God can use our weakness for His glory. What more can we ask for? What more can we want than to show strength when we are weak.

**Let us pray:** Lord, may my eyes be on You. May my weakness glorify You. May I live my life, the life I have been given, for You, in spite of the difficulties I face, the burdens I carry, the weaknesses which encompass me. Let me use this one life for You, showing others – and myself – no matter what, You are with me. When I feel life is out of control, help me to remember You are in control and I have been blessed with undeserved grace.

**Amen.**