

God's Sufficient Grace

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Introduction: God's Word should always trump your experience.

Deuteronomy 13; Colossians 2:18-19a; 2 Corinthians 11:3-5

He uses sarcasm when he refers to these men as 'super-apostles.'

Ephesians 2:19-20; Revelation 2:2

Three Marks of an Apostle:

1. He had to see the resurrected Lord (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1).
2. He had to be specially appointed by Christ (Luke 6:12-13; Acts 1:23-26 and Proverbs 16:33).
3. He had power to perform miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12; multiple passages in Acts).

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Key Truth: God wants to use your weaknesses to teach you to humbly rely on Him.

1 Timothy 4:16

Observations:

1. Personal spiritual experiences do nothing to validate a person's ministry.
2. God would not permit Paul to say what he heard.
3. God uses Satan's hatred of Paul for Paul's sanctification.
4. Christ's power is realized in human suffering and weakness, not visions or revelations.
5. When weak people accomplish great things it is obvious that it was God's power at work in them.
6. True spiritual strength is the ability to be happily content in the midst of suffering and weakness.

Three Applications:

1. Pursue Personal Sanctification in Word and Deed, Not Personal Spiritual Experiences

Matthew 7:16

2. Be Content in Your Weakness, Trusting that God Gave Your Weakness to Display His Power

3. Glorify and Magnify Our Wise and Gracious God!