

Dan's Devotion: Surgery Time

I am set to have back surgery on Friday. It's a fairly complicated surgery stemming from a badly herniated disk. It is the same disk that I had surgery on 2 and half years ago, but this time it is herniated out the right side instead of the left side. If you know your anatomy of the spine, the herniated disk is between L1 & L2 which is in the lower back. However, it is very rare to have a problem this high in the lower back and even rarer for someone my age to have this problem. In fact my surgeon said, "We never see this." That's not really the way I wanted to stand out.

So, it is easy to want to ask the question, "Why is this happening to me?" I mean c'mon God, I'm busy. I don't have time for this. And to make matters worse, the recovery is pretty extensive. I'll have to wear a back brace for 3 months and I'm not supposed to drive for 3 months either. How in the world do you not drive for 3 months?

I was led to the passage of 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 when Paul had a very specific struggle as well. He pleaded for God to take it away from him, but God said no Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you." My preference would have been for God to heal me miraculously. In fact, I prayed for that, but unless he does something amazing in the next day and half I think God is saying, Dan, "my grace is sufficient for you."

I will do my best to delight in my weakness because I know that when I am weak, God's strength shines through. I know that God has some lessons to teach me through this and I'll do my best to be a good student.

What about you? Is there a weakness or hardship or difficulty in your life where you need to admit that God's grace is sufficient for you? Are you facing persecution or insults? God's grace is sufficient for you.

We're not going to always understand why things happen. But our weaknesses provide a great opportunity to see God at work, if we open our eyes and seek to learn.

Because of His Grace,

Dan Toney

P.S. - I would appreciate your prayers on Friday. Thank you

"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:7-10