

MESSAGE # 4: DELIVERANCE FROM INABILITY

Biblical Passages: 2 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I. Introducing the Subject:

I am not sure how to categorize this but there are times when we are greatly hindered by inability--perhaps to do a task, perhaps by some physical problem that has left us incapable--perhaps by any number of circumstances that may interfere with the routine. At such a time we may feel the emotional breakdown that I refer to as inability. It is not a moral matter at all, just one of those life things over which we do not have a lot of control. But we are delivered from defeatism and despair in the face of these things by the grace of God that saves us and allows us to live. The sufficiency of God's grace allows us not to give up nor to be defeated because at some particular point we are unable to accomplish what we might wish to do. This is a personal blessing, known in your life as you look to God. But as with the others...if we are not willing to trust we may well lose out on the value of what God has provided. It is pretty serious business and it is a case of "living in the good" or trying to live on our own.

II. Discussion:

- A. His grace is sufficient for our weaknesses. The context of 2 Corinthians 12 expresses it beautifully. Paul suffers from a "thorn in the flesh". It is a "messenger of Satan" that buffets him and limits, in some way, his service. He asks the Lord for deliverance and the Lord does not deliver and simply says.."My grace is sufficient for you." Because of that Paul says he will glory in his weakness because when he is weak then he is strong. His weakness or inability has cast him on the Lord in a way that makes him a better and stronger servant.

- B. His grace is sufficient even in times when it seems we have failed. The text of 1 Corinthians 4 is helpful as the Apostle points out the hardships that have befallen the Lord's servants. He does not particularize it when he discusses the Galatian problem but when he marvels at how quickly the company had fallen, he must have felt a sense of disappointment and even defeat. But