

# **Frustrating Faith: When It Seems God is not Cooperating**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**The Bottom Line:** God gives grace when his answer is no.

**Welcome Verse:** 2 Corinthians 9:8

## **Introduction:**

One of the most frustrating things about believing in God is when God seems Inattentive, Uncooperative, or Late. When you feel neglected and-when your prayers are not only unanswered, but things go the other way.

Last week, our lesson centered around how God seemed inattentive in John the Baptist's life, but the lesson was to ...

**Look Back** at all God has done for and in you.

**Look Out** at all God is doing in the world around you.

**Look Ahead** at what God is promising to do.

This week, we're going to look at an Apostle when God seemed uncooperative in a major area of his life.

## **Tension:**

Maybe God isn't cooperative with you right now either. Your husband isn't changing. Your wife isn't coming back. You aren't feeling any better. You can't get an interview, much less a job.

What do you do when God appears to be uncooperative?

Some people say, "There must not be a God." But God's lack of cooperation is not an argument for or against his existence.

Some people try to "faith" God into changing his mind. But faith isn't a lasso that we get around God's neck. Besides, do you want a God that is so small you can manipulate him with faith?

## **Truth**

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Lessons from today's Scripture:

1. We can ask God to remove our thorns.
2. God may say, "No." And-that must be okay.
3. God may choose to showcase his power in our weaknesses.
4. You can't experience God's sustaining grace while resisting his will.
5. Sustaining grace begins with: "Not my will, but your will be done."

**Conclusion:**

God gives grace when his answer is no.

God's grace is sufficient for you.

God's power is made perfect in your weakness.

**Application:**

Trust God with whatever answer he gives. If God chooses to showcase his power in your weakness, don't resist his will. Instead, lean into his sustaining grace with, "Not my will, but your will be done."

**Next Steps:**

- Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- Trust God with whatever answer he gives.
- Receive God's sustaining grace.

**Discussion questions for group this week:**

**1. If I could ask a question it would be....**

**2. What does this teach me about God?**

**3. What does this teach me about me?**

**4. How do I apply this to my life?**