

Reflection

Fourteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024

14th Sunday 2 Cor 12.8-9

Paul says, "... I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So my question is, when God says no, what should we do? And when God denies our requests for prayer, what happens to our callings, our faith, and our relationship with other believers? Is it possible that the different kinds of difficulties we face in life are like thorns in our flesh, serving to keep us focused and reliant on God?

Though the apostle Paul emphasizes the importance and advantages of weaknesses through which God is manifested, weaknesses are not always desirable in a world dominated by power. Paul's perspective is that he is being subjected to an immense amount of suffering rather than just a minor inconvenience. Paul seems to be suggesting that the more we are subjected to God's "visions and revelations," the more issues our bodies suffer. Though it may seem unreasonable, the apostle Paul challenges us to reconcile these two events and always thank God for whatever situation we find ourselves in.

While there are teachings on being unaware of the Devil, Christians should pray consistently and remain cautious, as Paul states in verses 8–9. There are some trials we must face in our lives of prayer and faith because it is through them that we will see God's grace. The solution we most need is not just good and immediate, but also God's presence during our pain.