

Sufficient Gifts, Sufficient Grace

Scripture used: [1 Peter 1:3–7](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#) (ESV)

OVERVIEW

Elder Jonathan shares how difficult it was to receive this message personally, especially the truth that God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). He compared it to flying on a plane. A great flight might mean something remarkable happened, but a good flight is smooth, uneventful, and even boring. In the same way, God's grace often works quietly and steadily. Because it doesn't always feel dramatic, we can overlook it or discount it, developing blinders that keep us from fully receiving what God is already providing.

Sometimes what is *good* doesn't feel impressive. In the same way, God's sustaining grace in our weakness may not feel dramatic—but it is deeply faithful and sufficient. God's grace is sufficient for every trial, and His gifts are intentionally given so we can extend that grace to others—even while we are still walking through hardship ourselves.

KEY POINTS

1. Living Hope in a Weak World

Peter writes to Gentile believers who did not have the spiritual heritage of Israel's great stories. They may have felt overlooked or uncertain about their place in God's plan. Peter assures them that through Jesus they have been given a living hope—one that is alive because Christ is alive. This hope is not dependent on circumstances and does not fade when life becomes difficult. Even when God's promises sound too good to be true, they remain eternal, reliable, and freely given. We can get through our trials by remembering that we too have living hope and that we have a community of believers to walk with through times of trial.

2. Understanding Our Trials

In 1 Peter 1:6–7, Peter speaks honestly about suffering. He acknowledges that trials are real and painful, yet temporary. They may or may not come, and when they do, they often come in many forms at once. Peter uses the Greek word *poikilos*, meaning manifold or multicolored, to describe these various trials. Our hardships are not simple or one-dimensional, and Peter does not minimize the grief they bring.

3. Manifold Grace and Given Gifts

The same word *poikilos* is used again in 1 Peter 4:10 to describe God's grace. Just as our trials are varied, God's grace is equally rich and sufficient. God has, in a sense, color-coded our troubles and also distributed His grace through the gifts He has given each believer. These gifts are not for personal recognition, but so we can steward God's grace well by serving others—even while we are still walking through our own challenges.

4. Living as Good Neighbors

Peter's encouragement calls believers to live out their faith in practical ways. Just as companies are known for being "good hands" or "good neighbors," followers of Jesus are called to reflect God's grace through their actions. Even in seasons of trial, we are invited to be the good hands, good feet, and good neighbors God uses to bring peace, care, and hope to those around us.

DISCUSSION

1) **HEAR** - What is something in your life that once felt "too good to be true," but you've learned you can trust?

2) **UNDERSTAND** - According to 1 Peter 1:6–7 and 1 Peter 4:10, how has God's manifold grace met you in a season of trial, and how might He be inviting you to use your gifts to extend that grace to someone else?

3) **DO** - Together listen to the song mentioned in the message called ["God is Good" on YouTube](#). Take a few quiet moments to write a personal prayer to God. As you write, reflect on the truth from "*God Is Good*"—that God is good even when this year was hard, confusing, or unfinished. Thank Him for where you've seen His goodness, name where you still need His grace, and offer the coming year to Him with trust. End your prayer by surrendering one area of your life where you want to believe God's goodness more fully as you step into the new year.

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