

Tuesday - April 2

...“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Grace. It is a tough one. It flies in the face of conventional wisdom. We are taught, if it seems too good to be true then it most certainly is. We ask, “Where are the strings?” We have to earn our way in this world. Where’s the hard work? How do we earn it? Give me the steps to achieve this so that I can cross them off of my to do list.

But, so often when we look towards God, we find that there is another way. A God way. A way centered on unconditional love. When we think of God, there is this inexplicable grace attached. There is nothing that we can do to earn it. We certainly don’t deserve it. Yet here it is. A free gift. No strings attached.

It has appeared to me most readily in those deep waters. In those places where the pain is almost unbearable. It comes often in a moment of complete and utter brokenness. It has been there when I felt unable to navigate through the next moment, let alone getting through the days and weeks ahead. It has come to me often through people who have come into my life at just the right time and in just the right place.

I have felt it in the words and arms of a pastor who exclaimed, “When I got the news, I envisioned your face and knew immediately that I had to pray for you.” I didn’t ask for that. It was not communicated to her that I needed that. Yet somehow she was open to a vision and willing to respond to it. Little did she know how desperately that prayer was needed. It didn’t make life easy. It didn’t make all the tears stop flowing. But somehow it provided a sense of peace. A sense of something working for good. A sense of being held. It was a realization that the creator of everything cares intimately for everyone, including me. God was working and moving on my behalf. God’s goodness was flowing through the people in my life. I was offered peace, forgiveness and comfort that I did not earn and certainly did not deserve. Yet, by the grace of God it was there.

Shelly

Prayer: May we all have hearts open enough to experience God’s grace in our lives and also be willing to be an instrument for God’s grace to spread throughout the world. Amen.