



First Baptist Church of Highland Park
WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – 6:45 PM

“Living on Grace: How to Stand When You’re Stretched”

Anchor Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NLT)

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

OPENING REVIEW

We learned:

- Grace meets us where we are
- Weakness is where God works best
- Grace holds us together

I. UNDERSTANDING THE “THORN” (v.7)

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT):

“Even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.”

Supporting Scriptures:

Job 2:7 (NLT): So, Satan left the Lord’s presence, and he struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT): You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.

Romans 8:28 (NLT): And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.

SEE REVERSIDE SIDE

II. WHEN GOD SAYS “NO” (vv. 8–9a)

2 Corinthians 12:8-9a (NLT):

“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, ‘My grace is all you need.’”

Supporting Scriptures:

Matthew 26:39 (NLT): “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me.”

Deuteronomy 3:26 (NLT): “But the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT): “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.

III. THE POWER OF GRACE (v.9)

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT):

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

Supporting Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT): God saved you by his grace when you believed.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT): Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God.

1 Peter 5:10 (NLT): In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory.

Acts 4:33 (NLT): God’s great blessing was upon them all.

IV. REFRAMING YOUR WEAKNESS (vv. 9b–10)

2 Corinthians 12:9b-10 (NLT):

“So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”

Supporting Scriptures:

Isaiah 40:29 (NLT): He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.

Philippians 4:13 (NLT): For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT): We now have this light shining in our hearts.

V. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Psalm 46:1 (NLT): God is our refuge and strength.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT): Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Galatians 6:2 (NLT): Share each other's burdens.

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT): The tongue can bring death or life.

Acts 16:25 (NLT): Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a thorn in your life?
2. Why does God allow some things to remain?
3. How have you experienced grace?
4. What does weakness mean in your faith?
5. What step will you apply this week?

CLOSING ENCOURAGEMENT

If you have got grace—you've got strength, hope, and power.

PRAYER POINTS

- Lord, help me accept what You allow
- Lord, teach me to depend on Your grace
- Lord, show me Your power in my weakness
- Lord, give me strength to keep going