

THE PIECES ARE COMING TOGETHER

MARCH 2017

REFLECT & RESPOND

*What do you when
God says, "No"?*

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Life can be just like a puzzle—pieces everywhere. While you're sitting, concentrating, and paying close attention to detail, you will find that what started out as nothing but a lot of oddly shaped pieces, now turns into a beautiful picture once the pieces come together. This is how life works. We begin with nothing but a bunch of "stuff" and once we take the time to have communion with God and trust His plan and timing, we are able to see the pieces come together.

In our focus scripture, Paul wanted to rid himself of the thorn that was placed in his side so he made a request for God to remove it. He asked God three times but God continued him deny him over and over again. What do you do when God says, "No"? God answered Paul's prayer, but not in the way that he wanted. Paul was told that God's grace was enough for him to endure.

There are time we are left to endure the pain, and in those times when God does not remove the situation, He gives us grace to deal with it. Paul realized that in his weakest moments that's when he was the strongest. In our own lives, we must trust that God's grace is enough to sustain us and keep us as we hold firm to the confession that the pieces are coming together.

PRAYER: *Dear Heavenly Father, show me how to keep it together in the midst of difficult times while you faithfully bring everything together in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

AFFIRMATION: I will not focus on one piece when God is putting the entire puzzle together.

—Pastor Rodney C. Griffin, Jr.