



## **The Grace Solution**

### **Jimmy Evans**

**Focus** The grace of God is the solution to my problems. His grace enables me to deal with every area of weakness in my life and be victorious in His abundant provision.

**Fun** What's the weirdest food combination you have tried?

**Review** Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:1–10; Psalm 2:1–12

#### **1. There are four basic types of weaknesses:**

- **Inability:** An area of our lives where we are weak, but we can grow in knowledge and ability.
- **Iniquity:** Sin areas where we have weaknesses and tendencies, either from our pasts or our parents and background.
- **Infirmity:** Temporary physical illness or a permanent limitation.
- **Inherent Weakness:** Sometimes God disables an area of your life, so you have to depend on Him.

#### **2. People deal with weaknesses in four primary ways:**

- **Defeated Weakness:** Giving up and accepting defeat.
- **Deceptive Weakness:** Covering up the weakness and pretending it doesn't exist.
- **Defiant Weakness:** Declaring poor choices and character flaws are acceptable and refusing God or anyone else's position to the contrary.

- Divine Weakness: Accepting the fact that there are weaknesses in life, and some of them are by God's design. Additionally, choosing to turn the weaknesses to God and not be ashamed of them but allowing them to be a means of deepening dependence upon God and allowing Him to glorify Himself through it.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Next week is the Gateway Student Conference. Consider offering your time to pray in an hourly prayer sign-up for the conference. For more information, visit [gatewaystudentconference.com](http://gatewaystudentconference.com).

### **Discuss**

1. Before writing 2 Corinthians, Paul was criticized for his public appearance and speaking. Have you been criticized? Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. How does this passage encourage you?
2. Deuteronomy 5:9 explains generational iniquity. Pray and ask the Lord if any areas of your life need to be severed. Here are four steps in breaking iniquity:
  - Admit and take responsibility for your part in it.
  - Forgive your parents.
  - Break it off in the name of Jesus and declare that the iniquity stops here.
  - Surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ.
3. We can feel defeated in some of our thoughts and behaviors. Instead of being upset, Paul acknowledges his weaknesses and shares God's response in 2 Corinthians 12:9. Share ways this verse gives you hope about your weaknesses.
4. Being honest about our weaknesses will help us grow. How has the Lord helped you in weakness? Share an area of weakness where you are currently struggling. Take time to pray for one another. Remember we don't need to fix each other. The Holy Spirit is our helper, and He will guide us.
5. Pastor Jimmy shared a few of the American Humanist Association's affirmations. How do you see these thoughts invading our culture and our

own thought life in regard to weaknesses? Read Psalm 2:1–12. What does the psalmist say regarding those who set themselves against God?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Love is our greatest need, and rejection is our greatest fear. This is how Satan hooks us. Fear of man is a control issue the enemy uses to manipulate us.
- When we give our weaknesses to God, we are breaking off the spirit of fear of man and of rejection, the spirit of self-hate and shame, the spirit of performance, and the spirit of condemnation. We now have confidence relating to God and receiving from Him.
- God is not turned off by your weaknesses. “His strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**Prayer** Lord, thank You for helping me in my weaknesses. I want to glorify You in my weakness. As I give them to You, I trust You to help me embrace and deal with them appropriately. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** This week’s message covers a topic we teach in freedom ministry. Encourage your group members to attend Freedom Basics Equip classes. To see when classes are being offered, visit [equip.gatewaypeople.com](http://equip.gatewaypeople.com).