October 11, 2026: Be Thankful for What You Have 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:2-4

"Consider it pure joy…whenever you face trials of many kinds." James 1:2

"My grace is sufficient for you." 2 Corinthians 12:9

As we continue our series, ***No Limbs, No Limits*****,** we are looking beyond Nick Vujicic's story to the deeper truths it reveals about faith, suffering, purpose, and the character of God. Today, we face a question every believer eventually encounters: **What do we do when God says no?**

It is easy to trust God when prayers are answered, doors open, and circumstances change in our favor. But what happens when we pray sincerely and nothing changes? When relief does not come and disappointment remains? That is when faith moves beyond words and becomes real.

James 1:2–4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." Faith is not revealed when life is easy, but when life is uncertain and the outcome is beyond our control. In those moments, we discover whether our faith is rooted in circumstances or anchored in conviction.

This leads us to a difficult truth: God's "no" does not mean God's absence. He sees what we cannot see and works in ways we may not understand. Paul prayed for his struggle to be removed, but God answered, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Sometimes God changes the situation, and sometimes He strengthens us within it.

Nick's life illustrates this truth. He has prayed for God to give him arms and legs and even keeps a pair of shoes as a reminder that God can do anything. Although that prayer remains unanswered, his faith has deepened, and God has used his life to reach countless people. **God's "no" did not destroy Nick's potential. It became a catalyst for his ministry**. Even when the miracle does not come as expected, God can still use a life surrendered to Him.

This is where gratitude becomes essential.

Stewardship becomes an expression of gratitude to God. Stewardship is not only about what we give—it is about how we live with what God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is gratitude in action. It is the posture of saying, **"Lord, I will honor You with what I have, not with what I wish I had." J**ames and Paul stand side by side in today's readings to teach us that **thankfulness is not the result of perfect circumstances—it is the fruit of trusting God in imperfect ones.** Stewardship begins with gratitude. And gratitude begins with trusting God with what you already have.

Gratitude is a posture we choose, not a feeling we wait for. It is not based on favorable circumstances, but on what we know to be true about God. **Nick makes this clear: we are called to count our blessings, even when life is difficult**. Not as denial, but as discipline. Not as avoidance, but as alignment. When we intentionally focus on what God has done, it begins to shift how we see what we are going through.

Nick offers several practical ways to cultivate gratitude:

1. Write down what you are thankful for. Identify specific things, not merely general ideas.
2. Reflect on past difficulties. Consider how those situations could have been worse and how God sustained you through them. This builds perspective and humility.
3. Tell someone what you are going through. **You were not meant to carry pain alone**. Seek counsel, community, and support.
4. Anchor yourself daily in Scripture for encouragement and sustenance.
5. Help someone else in need; it often brings clarity and purpose to your own situation.

These are not abstract ideas. They are practical steps that move gratitude from theory into action.

Be thankful because God's Grace is enough. God says, "My grace is sufficient for you."

Stewardship means living gratefully within the grace God has already given you.

You may not have the strength you want, but you have the grace you need. You may not have the resources you desire, but you have the provision God intends. You may not have the life you imagined, but you have the God who never fails.

Stewardship is not about abundance; it is about dependence and willingness to be thankful.

Be thankful for what you have, because God works through what you have: Paul had a thorn. James's audience faced trials. You have your own limitations, challenges, weaknesses, and limited resources. But here is the gospel truth: God never waits for you to be strong and have surplus before He works. God works through what you have. Moses had a staff. David had a sling. The widow had a jar of oil. The boy had five loaves and two fish.

And you have grace, right now, right where you are.

Stewardship is not wishing for more. It is trusting God with what is already in your hands. Gratitude is not pretending everything is perfect. It is trusting that God remains perfect through everything.

Be thankful today for what you have, not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful; not because you have everything you want, but because God is working through all you have.

This is stewardship: being thankful for what you have because God is already using it for His glory. Think and meditate on these things as we prepare our hearts for Commitment Sunday!