

## **The Discipline of Denial**

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, especially verse 9

**Introduction:** It's often said that, in answering our prayers, sometimes God says "wait" (John 11:6), sometimes "yes" (1 Samuel 1:17), and sometimes "no" as in our text today. He teaches us about His grace through this discipline of denial.

- I. **Difficulty** (vv.7-8)
  - a. A pressure that seemed unhelpful (v.7)
  - b. A prayer that seemed unheard (v.8)
- II. **Discovery** (v.9)
  - a. The Lord's gracious purpose
  - b. The Lord's gracious provision
- III. **Doxology** (v.10)
  - a. Attitude is changed
  - b. Acceptance is complete

**Conclusion:** Have you been asking God to remove some pressure, some problem from your life? To change the circumstances? Perhaps the Lord wants it there to teach you this lesson: **WITH ABIDING PRESSURE COMES ABUNDANT PROVISION.** His grace is sufficient for you!