

SUFFICIENT

AND

SATISFIED

LEVITICUS 25

Lee Pey Woan

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INTRODUCTION



Road Map

- 1. The All-sufficiency of God**
- 2. The Sufficient Life**
 - a. Work & livelihood**
 - b. Relationships**
 - c. Fairness and entitlements**
- 3. The Satisfied Life**

LEVITICUS 25:18-22



¹⁸ “Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely. ¹⁹ The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.

LEVITICUS 25:18-22



20 And if you say, ‘What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?’

21 I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

LEVITICUS 25:18-22

22 When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating some of the old crop; you shall eat the old until the ninth year, when its crop arrives.'



INTRODUCTION

**Do nothing for one year but
experience an enormous windfall
equivalent to three years' wages!
WOW!**

INTRODUCTION

a) “*neither sow nor reap*” (v 11)

- don't try to provide for yourselves

INTRODUCTION

b) “*you shall not wrong one another*” (v 14 & v 17)

- don’t exploit the weaknesses of others, deal with people fairly**

INTRODUCTION

**c) [let an impoverished brother]
“*return to his property*” (v 28)**

**– don’t hang on to what you
acquired**

INTRODUCTION

d) “*you shall not lend your money at interest*” (v 37)

- help the poor sacrificially with no opportunity to profit from it**

INTRODUCTION

e) release a poor brother from service (v 40)

- forgive debts, don't insist on your rights**

INTRODUCTION

The Jubilee commandments were exceptionally hard to obey because they are not simply a one-off charity or handout – like the gift of spare cash to the poor.

INTRODUCTION

Rather, these commandments form an entire scheme to ensure fair access to a society's productive resources.

INTRODUCTION

The commands to restore land to the poor and to free slaves were to ensure those who have fallen into bad times will always have a chance to regain the ability to make a living for himself and his family, so that no family will be perpetually trapped in multi-generational poverty.

INTRODUCTION

Transposed to our modern context, it is perhaps equivalent to our government's efforts to ensure that all children have access to education, all families have access to public flats and to essential healthcare.

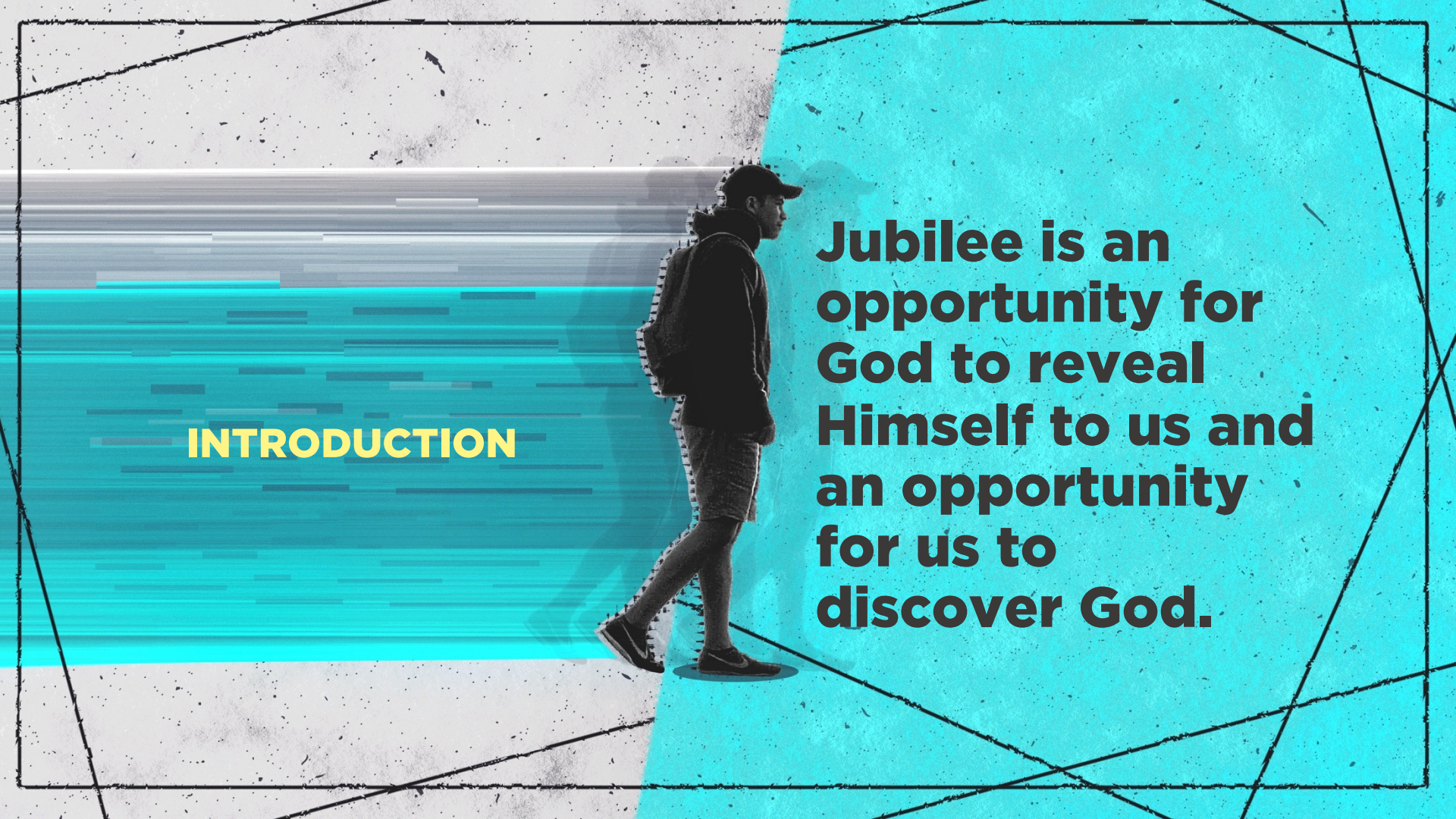
INTRODUCTION

The crux of Lev 25:

- **Can we trust God enough to obey His commands?**
- **Will we really have enough to eat if we do not sow and reap?**

INTRODUCTION

**Who is God?
Can God be
trusted to make
good His
promise?**



INTRODUCTION

**Jubilee is an
opportunity for
God to reveal
Himself to us and
an opportunity
for us to
discover God.**

LEVITICUS 25:17

**You shall not wrong one
another, but you shall
fear your God, for
I AM the LORD your God.**



LEVITICUS 25:37-38



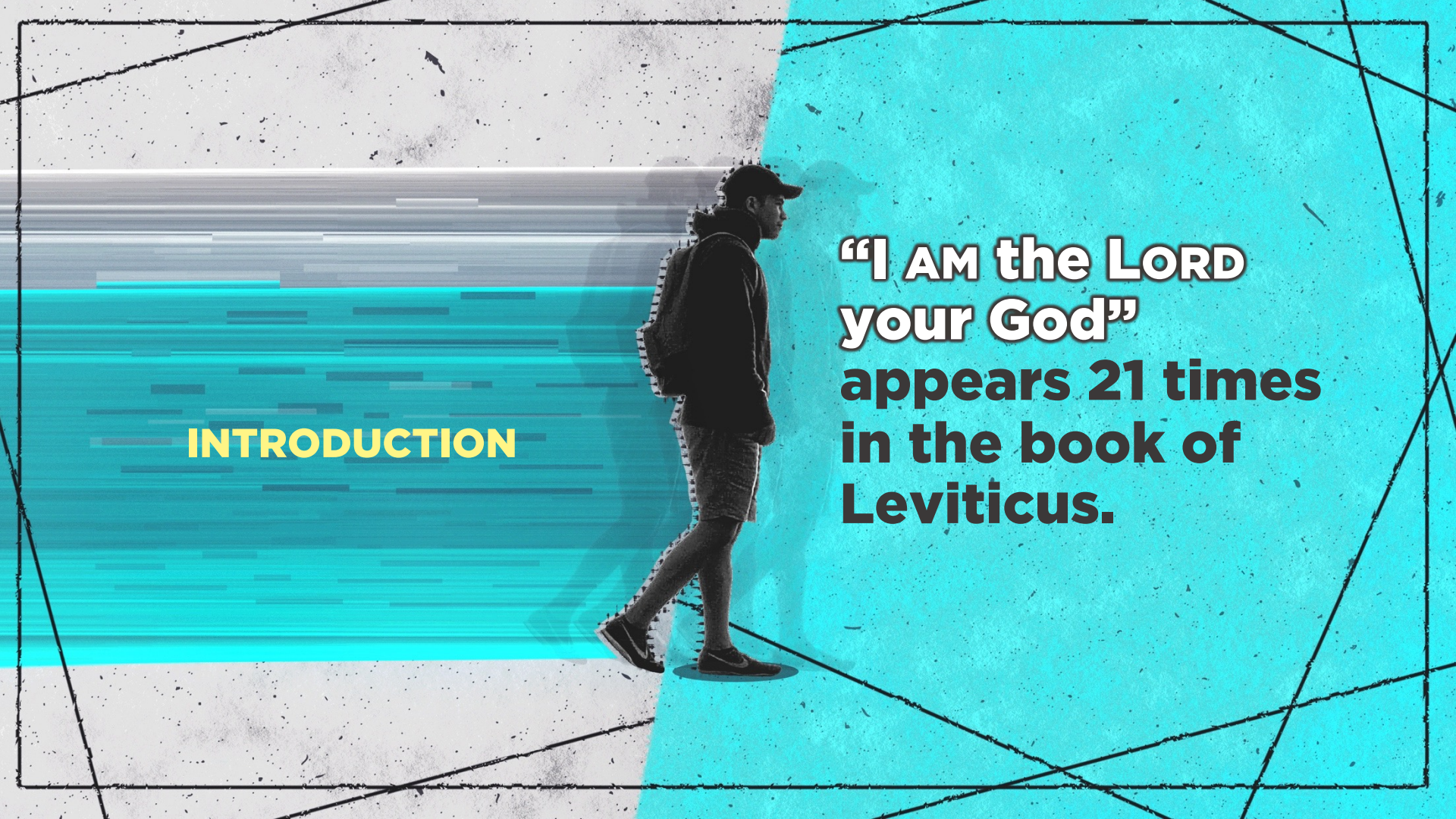
37 You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.

38 **I AM the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

LEVITICUS 25:55

**For it is to me that the
people of Israel are
servants. They are my
servants whom I brought
out of the land of Egypt:
I AM the LORD your God.**



A person wearing a dark jacket, shorts, a cap, and a backpack is walking from left to right. The background is split horizontally into a light blue top half and a white bottom half. A black geometric border consisting of several intersecting lines frames the entire image. The person is walking on a white path that runs horizontally across the middle of the frame.

INTRODUCTION

**“I AM the LORD
your God”
appears 21 times
in the book of
Leviticus.**

INTRODUCTION



**“I AM the LORD”
appears 49
times.**

LEVITICUS 18:4

**“You shall follow my rules
and keep my statutes and
walk in them. I AM the LORD
your God.”**



INTRODUCTION

God was not merely appealing to His power or authority. Rather, He was also inviting the Israelites to trust Him on the basis of His nature and character.

INTRODUCTION

He was inviting the Israelites to reflect on who He is and why He can be trusted.

1) THE ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD

The all-sufficiency of God is the most important character trait of God that underpins His commands in Lev 25.



EXODUS 3:14 (ESV)

**I AM WHO I AM.
... I AM has sent me to you.**



When God gave His name as “Ehyeh asher Ehyeh” (translates to “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE”), He was expressing the self-sustaining, self-determining and all-sufficient essence of His being.

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



JOHN 5:26 (ESV)

**For as the Father has life in
Himself, so He has granted the
Son also to have life in Himself.**



**He is not derived from
any other thing; He is
not dependent on any
other person or
condition.**



**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**

**God has no need of
anything, not food,
clothes or money.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**He does not need
people.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



He does not need us!

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**He does not need
dignity, or self-esteem
or “face” – for He is the
source of all glory.**



**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**

**God cannot be defined
by anything external to
Himself.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**Rather, He is the One
who defines everything
else.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**When scripture says that
God is just, it means God
is *always, consistently,
perfectly just.***

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**He is the most complete,
stable and dependable
manifestation of justice
because being just is
part of who God is.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**The reason why they
should and can obey was
because He was YAHWEH
– the source of all
fairness, compassion
and provision.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



**You can afford to obey –
because I am the fount
of holiness, I am all
these things that you
need, I am enough.**

**1)
THE ALL-
SUFFICIENT
GOD**



2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

**God is similarly
inviting us to enter
into a season of trust,
to encounter His all-
sufficiency.**

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

i) Work and Livelihood

The Jubilee command not to sow or reap is hard to obey because it is a direct challenge to our deep-seated belief that our livelihood depends on our own work and labour.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

**God challenged that
belief by mandating
rest.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

It is a tough challenge to meet because it required the Israelites to practise deliberate, intentional trust.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

**Just as God issued
this difficult challenge,
He also gave an
extraordinary promise
of His provision.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

**God was committed to
providing for them.**

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

i) Work and Livelihood

**His provision was not
an after-thought,
something incidental
to His generous nature.**

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

i) Work and Livelihood

Instead, it was part of an intentional, deliberate step to establish and fulfill His covenantal relationship with His people.

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

i) Work and Livelihood

We want to live and work in a way that honours God as the one who is all-sufficient to provide, and who is committed to intentionally providing for us.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

A chronic sense of anxiety is one of the loudest hints that we are unable to trust God for our livelihood.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

i) Work and Livelihood

Another common sign that we trust our work more than we trust God is when we try too hard to secure ourselves at work.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

**God cares very
deeply about how we
treat each other.**

LEVITICUS 25:14 (ESV)

**And if you make a sale to your
neighbor or buy from your
neighbor, *you shall not wrong
one another.***



LEVITICUS 25:17 (ESV)

***You shall not wrong one
another, but you shall fear
your God, for I am
the LORD your God.***



2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

ii) Relationships

The ESV uses the word “wrong”, while other translations use words such as “oppress”, “exploit” or “mistreat”.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

**God is opposed to the
use of people to
further our own
selfish ends.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

**Oppression or
exploitation is always
a deeply humiliating
act.**

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

ii) Relationships

It effectively devalues the victim as a person or thing of lower value, as an instrument to fulfil the oppressor's own needs or desires.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

**Do we value them as
God's image bearers,
or do we see them as
persons whom we must
“max out” for our own
convenience or
advantage?**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

Instead of looking to people, I must always look to God as the first port of call. Because He is my all-sufficiency.

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

ii) Relationships

The reality is that we are bound to be disappointed at one time or another, because each of them is finite, they have their own lack and deficiencies.

2) THE SUFFICIENT LIFE

ii) Relationships

The only way we can love the people dear to us, build and sustain very healthy, respectful relationships is to look to the all-sufficient God to meet our needs.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

ii) Relationships

**God is the only person
who can meet all our
spiritual, emotional
and intellectual needs
without depleting
Himself.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

**Underlying this sense
of “unfairness” is that
we feel shortchanged.**

**And we don't like to be
shortchanged.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

**God asked the Israelites
to intentionally
shortchange themselves.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

**Because “I AM the LORD
your God.”**

He is YAHWEH.

He is all-sufficient.

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

**He is everything we
need.**

**He would not short-
change us.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

**If we turn our eyes to
God's sufficiency, then
a different picture
emerges.**

**Our loss will seem
smaller or non-existent.**

**2)
THE SUFFICIENT
LIFE**

iii) Fairness & Entitlements

If we train our eyes to focus on His sufficiency, we will shift from a scarcity mentality to a wealth mentality.

3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

Is God really sufficient?

**But we treat God like a
safety net that we fall
back on when the other
things prove to be
insufficient.**



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

In our conscious or subconscious minds, we are still looking to material or earthly things for satisfaction.



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE



We often feel that God is good, or sufficient only when our desires for material, earthly things are satisfied.

3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

**Human desire is
fundamentally infinite in
nature.**



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE



**You can never get
enough money, if you
want money.**

**You can never get
enough power, if you
want power.**

Life Without Lack, Pg 134

3) THE SATISFIED LIFE



**You can never get
enough love, you can
never get enough glory.
It is impossible**

Life Without Lack, Pg 134

ECCLESIASTES 1:8 (ESV)

**... the eye is not satisfied
with seeing, nor the ear
filled with hearing.**



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

**The sufficiency of God
does not seek to satisfy
all human desires.**



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

The Bible's answer to our sense of insufficiency is not to promise that we will have every need or desire met.



3) THE SATISFIED LIFE



**Instead, it teaches us to
acknowledge these
needs/ desires, but trust
God to experience
sufficiency even when
our desires or needs are
not met.**

2 COR 12:9-10 (NLT)



Each time He said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So **now I am glad to boast** about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 COR 12:9-10 (NLT)



10 That's why **I take pleasure** in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3) THE SATISFIED LIFE

**Jesus is here with us
even when our earthly
struggles blind us to
God's sufficiency.**



PSALM 17:5 (ESV)

**As for me, I shall behold
Your face in righteousness
When I awake, I shall be
satisfied with Your likeness.**



CONCLUSION

