

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Our son, Thomas, is a 29-year-old special needs young man that works at Ingles, where he bags groceries for customers. He recently had to take a whole battery of psychological testing to gain access to various NC resource programs. These were not the first such tests for him, as he has had many during his life. However, when the results came back, we experienced a familiar and depressing moment as we found once again that his results were mainly in the "less than one percentile" range when measured against his peers. My wife and I discussed the results briefly. We reminded ourselves again that Thomas does not test well, but these tests don't measure an intangible factor in Thomas which is unique and remarkable.

Thomas and I go out to dinner once a week just so the two of us can get away regularly and talk. On this night several weeks ago, we went to Micas and sat at the bar where we ordered dinner for ourselves and take out for his mom. Thomas, as usual, chatted it up with other adjacent customers seated at the bar. When I asked for the check, the bartender told me somebody had paid it. I persistently inquired until I discovered who had picked up the tab. When I approached the couple who had paid the check, I thanked them for their generosity and asked why they had reached out to us in such a way. The man explained that he was in foodservice over at High Hampton in Cashiers and that Thomas had helped him out so many times at Ingles. I was struck by how Thomas had touched this man's heart.

Prayer: Thank you for your grace. Let us never forget that you use our weaknesses to accomplish mighty acts for the glory of God. In this time of Lent, give us clarity and direction about our service for You. Amen.

~ Submitted by Tom Blackstock for the Twenty-Third Reading of Lent