



FIRST ASSEMBLY

Jefferson City

Dr. Gary Denbow • Revival Services

Wednesday PM • 3/29/2023

A THORN IN THE FLESH

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

2 Cor. 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

VERSE 7: PAUL’S THORN IN THE FLESH

- Was it opposition?
- Was it a physical condition that caused physical pain?
- Was it some kind of recurring problem?

WHY WOULD PAUL HAVE SUCH A PROBLEM AND WHERE DID IT ORIGINATE?

- To keep him from exalting himself.
- To keep him from becoming proud or self-sufficient.
- The source of Paul’s thorn in the flesh was a “messenger of Satan” sent to attack him. *Satan’s angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees* (The Message).

VERSE 8:

- Paul’s reaction is a model for us.
- He prayed three times for God to remove the “thorn”
- At the same time, he kept on working — he worked through his pain.
- That is a perfect example of steadfast fortitude!

VERSE 9: MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

- Physical weariness
- Pain
- Opposition
- Slander
- “It is the glory of the gospel that in our weakness we may find the wondrous grace, for always, man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.”
Barclay

VERSE 9: MOST GLADLY WILL I BOAST...

- Paul did not pout, get bitter or resign himself to fate.
- He welcomed the challenge of the “thorn,” but he kept going.
- He did not express regret. He kept a positive attitude.
- His strong desire was for God to show His power!

VERSE 10: THE POWER OF A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- Paul determined to keep on going. Can we do that?
- He chose to delight in his weaknesses. Can we do that?
- God’s grace transformed Paul’s perspective. Can we expect that to happen in our lives?
- When we are weak in ourselves then we are strong through the power of Jesus. Can we believe that?