

2 Corinthians



Power in Weakness



**Dealing
with Thorns**

DEALING WITH THORNS

Power in Weakness Series

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 2 Cor. 12: 1-2

3And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—4was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. 5I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 2 Cor. 12:3-5

6Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, 7or because of these surpassingly great revelations. 2 Cor. 12: 6-7

Heaven is for real – vs. 1-6

Paul was given a thorn – vs. 7

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Vs. 8

How did Paul deal with his thorn?

1. He asked God to take it away

Three times, he pleaded with the Lord to "take it away from me" – vs. 8

2. He accepted God's answer

He didn't get the answer he wanted,
but the one he needed – vs. 9

*But he said to me, “My grace is
sufficient for you, for my power is
made perfect in weakness.” Vs. 9*

3. He chose his attitude

to boast about his weakness and
take pleasure in his thorn – vs. 10

6

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. Vs. 9

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. Vs. 10

There's a purpose in the pain

4. He changed his lens

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Vs. 10

Our weakness is to demonstrate God's power to others all around us – vs. 10

The end of yourself is the beginning
of His strength

Your greatest ministry will come out
of your greatest weakness

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things because they reckoned on His power and presence with them.

Hudson Taylor

Your greatest weakness is
followed by your greatest
fruitfulness – John 15:2

Apply to my life:

What is your thorn and what has been your attitude toward it?

How can you change your attitude to actually find purpose and pleasure in the pain?

What ministry could come out of your weakness in order to encourage and help others?



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