

IF I MUST GLORY 2 Cor. 11:30-12:5

2 Cor 11:30 *Glory:* Boast, brag. If I must brag, then I am going to brag about my _____.
These are what made me more like Christ.

Infirmities: maladies, sicknesses, feebleness, weaknesses. _____. I will draw attention to the characteristics in my body which show how weak I am.

Paul aware that one thing God used to make him a man of God was his _____.
2 Cor 1:8,9; 3:5; 4:7,16; 13:4; Phil 3:3

Man's nature is to give glory... to himself or, if saved, to God. Gal 6:14; Rom 15:17; Phil 1:11;
2 Cor.12:9

I am glad to be able to demonstrate the power & strength of God in my life in the midst of weakness. 2 Cor 10:17

Avoid shame, but do not seek glory. Nothing is so expensive as glory.

SYDNEY SMITH (1771-1845)

Our great honor lies in being just what Jesus was and is. To be accepted by those who accept him, rejected by all who reject him, loved by those who love him and hated by everyone who hates him. What greater glory could come to any man?

A. W. TOZER (1897-1963)

2 Cor 11:31 I want you to know that everything I have just said are _____ facts & backed up by the very character & presence our Creator, Redeemer, & Judge, The God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore.

2 Cor 11:32,33 The first incident of persecution of significance to Paul.

Acts 9:20-25 Aretas posted guards around the city hoping to capture Paul
Jews conspired/plotted to kill Paul & watched gates night & day hoping to catch him & kill him. The basket he was let down in --_____ -basket. (Smelly, stinky).

Paul, left the city of Damascus quite differently than when he first approached the city. There was no glory in being let down the walls in a stinky fish basket.

2 Cor 12:1 Not best thing for me to _____. I will now discuss visions & revelations of the Lord.

Visions: Things God has _____ me; Things I have visually seen

Revelations: Manifestations; things revealed to me by the _____. May include visions.

Acts 9:3; 22:6; 9:12; 22:17-21; 16:9; 18:9,10; 23:11; 27:22-25; Eph 3:3-6

2 Tim 3:16,17 *doctrine*--_____

Reproof--shows us when _____ ; rebukes us

Correction--shows me how to get right

Instruction in righteousness--how _____ right

Perfect--without error, defect, or blemish; lacking _____ , complete

Thoroughly furnished unto all good works--fully equipped to do everything God expects

If God's Word will make me complete, without _____ , defect, or blemish then why do I need a new vision or revelation?

2 Cor 12:2-4 14 yrs before the writing of this letter. 42-43 A.D. Between departure from Tarsus in Acts 9:30 & visit from Barnabas in Acts 11:25-26.

I knew a man: common for Jewish rabbis to refer to themselves by speaking in the _____ person.

(whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth:)

Paul wasn't sure whether he had bodily been transferred to heaven or out of body in spirit.

...*third heaven*. Paradise, place where God dwells in glory. 1 Cor 15:40

3 heavens:

1st--place where airplanes fly, _____

2nd--place where rockets & space ships fly

3rd--Place where _____ dwells.

2 Cor 12:3 cannot tell whether out of body experience or if body actually translated to 3rd heaven.

2 Cor 12:4 *Paradise*: celestial kingdom; Heaven where _____ dwells.

Unspeakable words: inexpressible, unutterable; beyond _____

2 Cor 12:5 This experience is worth bragging on--however, I will _____ from doing so.

So What?

1. Don't brag about our strengths.
2. If we are going to glory, let's glory in the Lord
3. Accept our weaknesses
4. Acknowledge our weaknesses