

## THORN IN THE FLESH

2 Corinthians 12:6-10

**2 Cor 12:6** *For though I would desire to glory,* If I were to desire to brag/boast about this supernatural experience I would be a \_\_\_\_\_ .

*I will say the truth:* I will tell it like it is. *I forbear,* resist temptation to do so

*Lest any man ...* I am a \_\_\_\_\_ just like you. I struggle with same struggles as you.

**2 Cor 12:7** God concerned that I become puffed up & too elated because of awesomeness of these revelations. Therefore -- \_\_\_\_\_

*Thorn:* point or prickle (something to cause bodily annoyance or disability):

*Messenger of Satan ...* errand-boy, emissary, \_\_\_\_\_ from Satan

*To buffet me:* beat me up; knock me around with the fist. Idea of causing shame & humiliation & indignation on part of sufferer.

*Lest I should be exalted above measure.* In case I might have a tendency to become \_\_\_\_\_ & caught up with how great I am.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ attacks 2. Persecution 3. \_\_\_\_\_ or mental Gal 4:13; 6:11; 2 Th 3:17

**2 Cor 12:8** ... *besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.* Urgently petitioned & begged Lord 3 times

*Affliction can be a treasure. Absolutely functional, it triggers life's greatest insights and accomplishments.* Fred Greve

*Often the same thing that makes one person bitter makes another better.*

*The same sun melts ice and hardens clay.*

*God will take care of what you go through; you take care of how you go through it.*

*There are two ways we can meet difficulty: either we can alter the difficulty or we can alter ourselves to meet it.*

*Nothing shows more accurately what we are than the way we meet trials and difficulties.*

*Many people want to go to the promised land without going through the wilderness.*

*Interesting to note: God did answer Paul's prayer. Even though it was not according to Paul's request.*

**2 Cor 12:9** *My grace is sufficient for thee:* My power & energy to do will of God is all you need...

*Grace:* energizing \_\_\_\_\_ & supernatural desire to do will of God. James 4:6

God allows infirmity in flesh

1. \_\_\_\_\_ us 2. Give more grace 3. Have more \_\_\_\_\_

*for my strength is made perfect in weakness.* Experience the totality of my grace if & when humbled before God.

**Perfect:** complete, accomplish, consummate, finish, \_\_\_\_\_ ,

**Strength:** miraculous power , ability, abundance, might, power, mighty (wonderful) work.

**Weakness:** feebleness , frailty: disease, infirmity, \_\_\_\_\_

Barnett: *The grace and power of God interlock with human lives at the point of mortal weakness.*

Hughes: *Indeed, the abject weakness of the human instrument serves to magnify and throw into relief the perfection of the divine power in a way that any suggestion of human adequacy could never do. The greater the servant's weakness, the more conspicuous is the power of his Master's all-sufficient grace.*

**Most gladly therefore will I rather glory ...** I choose to boast concerning weaknesses that I have been experiencing--so that God's supernatural, explosive, effective, mighty miracle-working \_\_\_\_\_ might overshadow everything I am & everything I do.

**will I rather glory in my infirmities** I am going to show recognition to my weaknesses as the very reason God is blessing my ministry & life so much.

**that the power of Christ may rest upon me:** \_\_\_\_\_ upon me. Reference to the Shechinah glory of God in the OT (Ex.40:34).

**2 Cor 12:10 Take pleasure:** Think well of; \_\_\_\_\_ of; think very highly of

**In** While I am experiencing

**Infirmities:** Sicknesses, \_\_\_\_\_ , infirmities

**Reproaches:** insult, injury. harm, hurt, reproach.

**Necessities:** distressing things; needs not being met

**Persecutions:** Torments & tortures at the \_\_\_\_\_ of others

**Distresses:** Anguish, backed into a corner; Times when caused strain and anxiety.

**for when I am weak, then am I strong.** The less I have, the more I \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

God's attitude about suffering **James 1:2-4** ...*But let (allow) patience (endurance) have her perfect work (her complete and effective results)*

*that ye may be perfect (so that you might be completely & effectively brought to a place of \_\_\_\_\_ ) and entire (fully developed), wanting nothing (lacking nothing, complete).*