

When Praying Doesn't Remove The Problem
II Corinthians 12:7-10

7 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 torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave 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, so 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.

There are times when you pray and pray, yet you are still facing a problem. Don't feel picked on, the Apostle Paul faced the same thing. He called it a Thorn. The word Thorn means something _____ and _____, sticking you.

Some have suggested that Paul's thorn was probably some kind of _____ ailment, disease, or problem.

Are you struggling with something that praying about it doesn't remove it?

I **The _____ of Thorns**

There is a _____ for your thorn

II Corinthians 12:7 “For this reason...there was given me a thorn in the flesh.”

What is the purpose of your thorn?

1. **Thorns Keep You _____**

Pride is the feeling of independence from God, that you can do it or make it without God.

2. **Thorns Keep You _____**

You are reminded that you need God

3. Thorns Keep you _____

A thorn is one of God's ways to let you know that He is not finished using you.

II The _____ of Thorns

Notice the process of how God uses thorns in the life of a believer:

1. _____ Allows It

2. _____ Delivers It

"Messenger" (v 7)

A Satanic representative.

3. _____ Deal With It

God wants to use the thorn to bring out the _____ in you; While Satan wants to use it to bring out the _____ in you.

You decide what will happen by your response

III The _____ to Remove Thorns

Thorns drive you to your knees. Three times Paul prayed earnestly, passionately, persistently for God to please remove his thorn in the flesh.

The Lord has Three Different Responses to your Prayer:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

IV The _____ to Deal with Thorns

II Corinthians 12:9

"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."

Notice:

1. ***Its*** _____ – ***“My”***
2. ***Its*** _____ – ***“Grace”***
3. ***Its*** _____ – ***“Is”***
4. ***It’s*** _____ – ***“Sufficient”***
5. ***It’s*** _____ – ***“For”***
6. ***It’s*** _____ – ***“You”***

V The _____ in Spite of the Thorns

II Corinthians 12:9a-10

“Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties., for Christ’s sakes for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

The Grace of God is best seen in the Backdrop of your own
_____.

Paul came to the end of himself. That’s when God can work best in you.