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# **God's Power for Your Thorn -- sermon**

## **GOD'S POWER FOR YOUR THORN**

2 Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### **1. Satan's Attack on God's Revelation**

2 Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

-All through the Bible the enemy attacks those people who carry a message from God or those people who are becoming a message from God.

-Satan attacks to keep us from advancing the kingdom.

### **2. The Prayer for God's Deliverance**

2 Cor. 12:8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

-It is natural for us to call on God to back the Devil off.

-It is not wrong but Scriptural to pray for God to deliver us from evil (or literally, the Evil One).

### **3. The Reassurance of God's Grace**

2 Cor. 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

-God promises Paul He will give him enough grace to handle the Devil's harrassment.

-God works to manifest His glory through man's frailty.

### **4. Paul's Resolution to Rest in the Power that Rested on Him**

2 Cor. 12:9 ...Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

-We must come to the place where we know God is doing something even when we feel nothing is happening.

-We must realize the power of Grace to overcome all our human deficits.

-We must consciously receive and be secure in the grace God gives rather than struggle through our fleshly efforts.

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