

Strength in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:1-10



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Discuss what happened to Paul 14 years ago. What is the third heaven? Paradise? Why does he say “I know a man ...” rather than speak directly about himself?
2. 2 Corinthians 12:5 is really important. Paul will only boast about one thing. What is it? Why is this Paul’s boast?
3. Why does Paul have a “thorn in the flesh”? What is the reason this was given to him?
4. How do you reconcile “was given” (presumably by God) with “a messenger of Satan”? How can the thorn in the flesh be both?
5. Why did Paul only pray three times? What did he conclude about the thorn in the flesh after these times of prayer?
6. What do you understand about the relationship between grace, power and weakness?
7. What does Paul mean in 2 Corinthians 12:10 by the phrase “for the sake of Christ”?

The Scriptures – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Also read the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. These speak to the same themes as 2 Corinthians 12. Compare and contrast these passages.
9. How is Paul’s experience like that of Jesus? Paul seeks to live in imitation of Jesus. Do you find similarities between what Paul experiences and what Jesus experienced?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. Do you have any thorns in your flesh?
11. How do you experience strength and weakness in your life? Can you speak about things that have happened that make you feel weak? How has God’s grace and power sustained you at times like these?
12. How can we pray for you as live as a disciple of Jesus?

