

## The Blessing of the Thorn

**As men we are often encouraged to believe that weakness is our greatest enemy.** That we should **despise** our weakness, that we should **hide** our weakness, that we should **never allow our weakness to be seen or known** in any way shape or form. In the manosphere online you often hear about the Alpha Male, and how that if we want to truly become the men we're supposed to be then we need to be strong and dominant at all times; that we need to be careful to never show signs of weakness or frailty. Only strength is celebrated while weakness is despised.

But when it comes to our walk with God we have to understand that **there is an aspect of our weakness that is actually quite desirable and even necessary** to have if we want to step into all that God has for us as men.

In this natural world **weakness is a liability**, but in the Kingdom of God **weakness is our greatest asset**.

In **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** the Apostle Paul speaks of a **thorn** in the flesh. We don't know what that thorn was, we can only speculate. It's possible that God intentionally kept Paul's thorn a mystery to make this passage that much more relatable for us today.

**The truth is that we all have a thorn.** A thorn can be an issue, a problem, a pain, a difficult circumstance, a tough situation in your life, a habit, an addiction that will not go away, a person in your life that just will not change. My thorn may not be like yours but I have a thorn of my own.

**But could it be that the thorns in our lives are actually blessings in disguise? Could it be that God is using that thorn to cultivate something inside of us that we never knew was there?**

Here are a few things that weakness does in our life as followers of Christ:

**1. Weakness keeps us HUMBLE.** It's hard to be prideful and arrogant when the thorns in our life continually remind us of our own **humanity**. The Bible tells us that pride must be resisted. **Proverbs 16:18 (KJV) — 18 Pride goeth before destruction, And an haughty spirit before a fall.** We know that pride is what caused Lucifer to fall. Lucifer said in **Isaiah 14:14 (KJV) — 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.** Humility is the antidote for pride. Humble men are the men that God blesses, anoints, and uses for His glory. **James 4:6 (KJV) — 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

**2. Weakness keeps us on our KNEES IN PRAYER. Some men would never pray or seek the face of God if it weren't for the thorns in their life.** If everything always went our way some of us would never see our need for God, we would never look to him for strength.

When you attempt to face a challenge or solve a problem in your own power, God says, "I'll step back and watch. Be my guest. Go ahead and do it if you can. If you think you can handle this on your own, great. If you think you can solve that problem at work, if you think you can make that marriage hang together, if you think you can turn that kid around in your own power, be my guest." It has been my experience that God will allow me to fail in order to teach me to fully trust in Him.

But the moment you come to God and say, "God, I'm weak. I don't have what it takes for all the pressures that are in my life. God, I need You." God says, "I knew that. I just wanted you to realize it." Then he plugs you into his **limitless power supply**.  
**Weakness keeps us pressing into God.**

**3. Having weaknesses gives you a MINISTRY. God has put you on earth not just to live for yourself, but to help other people.** Your greatest ministry will flow out of your weaknesses.

The greatest life message, the message that God wants to say to the world through you just might come out of your deepest hurt. The very thing that causes you the most grief and pain, God can use as a ministry to bless other hurting people. **God is a God who turns our mess into His message.**

The thing you're most embarrassed about, the thing you're most ashamed of, the thing you don't want anybody else to know about, God can turn around to use and encourage other people. **Pain sensitizes us to the hurts of others.** Other people are going to be helped, encouraged, and even healed by the wounds in your life.

**God never wastes our pain.** If you'll learn to admit it, see what God wants to do in it, be healed through it, and begin to share it with others.

**There is a hidden blessing in that thorn in your life, what you might think is your greatest defeat God just might turn around to become your greatest victory.**

**2 Corinthians 12:10 (KJV 1900) — 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.****