



## 2 Corinthians 12-13 | March 16-17

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### 2 Corinthians 12 (ESV) | Monday, March 16

1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— 6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

11 I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. 12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. 13 For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

14 Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? 16 But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. 17 Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? 18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

19 Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. 20 For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. 21 I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

**Your journal prompts are on page 2.**

## **2 Corinthians 13 (ESV) | Tuesday, March 17**

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 2 I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them— 3 since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. 4 For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. 7 But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. 10 For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you.

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Take time for reflection each day after your reading. Grab your journal!**

**Refer to the Resource page for more information.**

- 1) OBSERVATION | What does the Bible say?
- 2) INTERPRETATION | What does the Bible mean?
- 3) APPLICATION | How should I respond?
- 4) PRAYER | Communion with God



# THE BIBLE JOURNEY

## FOUNDATION

**1. The Bible is God's written Word to us. God spoke to and guided the human authors to record His words.**

*(16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17*

**2. The Holy Spirit serves as a guide and teacher as we read and study God's Word.**

*(26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26*

## STEP 1) OBSERVATION | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The practice of observation is simply seeking to understand what the text says. This is a good time to pepper the passage with questions.

- Who are the people involved?
- Do I understand all the words used?
- What is the setting or context?
- What is the literary form?
- What is repeated?
- Is there a figure of speech used? Etc.

## STEP 2) INTERPRETATION | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN?

Interpretation is the practice of determining what the original writer meant when he wrote the words. Think in terms of paragraphs. A paragraph is one unit of thought. Context is king. Take notice of what happened before and what happens afterward. A good rule to follow is, "When the plain sense of Scripture makes sense, seek no other sense."

## STEP 3) APPLICATION | HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

This is when we ask:

- What should I do or become in response to the text?
- Is there a command to obey? A sin to forsake? A character trait to embrace? An example to follow? A promise to claim?
- How does the truth impact my relationships, work, etc.?
- How does my view of God and praise of Him increase?

## STEP 4) PRAYER | COMMUNION WITH GOD

Conclude by talking with God about what you have discovered. This can guide your thoughts throughout the remainder of your day.