2 Corinthians Series: “Learning to Lean on God”

“The Vision, The Thorn, and The Grace”  David Owens
2 Corinthians 12:1-10  5.16.10

Introduction:
A. Our greatest ___________ can turn out to be our greatest ___________.
B. Our greatest ___________ can turn into our greatest __________.
C. Our greatest ___________ can turn out to be our greatest ___________.

I. The Vision—God ___________ Him.
   B. But the vision we want to talk about today is __________ from the rest—God took Paul to ________, then brought him back to ________.
   C. It appears that Paul kept _______ about this experience for 14 years.
   D. This vision was one of the ___________ _________ in Paul’s life.

II. The Thorn—God _________ Him.
   A. After the ________ came the ________ - God knows how to balance our lives.
   B. The mystery of human __________ will not be completely understood in this life.
      1. Sometimes we suffer just because we are _________.
      2. Sometimes we suffer because we are ________ and __________.
      3. Other times we suffer because God is using it as a ________ for building Godly _________.
   C. Whatever Paul’s thorn in the flesh was, it brought him ongoing ________ and _____________.
   D. We must note that God ___________ Satan to ________ Paul.

III. The Grace—God _________ Him.
   A. It’s important to accept the fact that God has the right to answer ____.
   B. Many believe that an afflicted Christian is a _________ to God.
   C. Rather than give Paul __________, God promised to give him ______.
   D. Paul learned that his thorn in the flesh was a _______ from God.

Conclusion:
A. I’m not trying to say that any of this is ________.
B. The key to all of this is our _________ in the __________.

Concl.A. easy.  B. trust, Lord.