

2 Corinthians Series: "Learning to Lean on God"

"The Vision, The Thorn, and The Grace"

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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.

- A. God had _____ Paul by giving him many _____ and revelations during his ministry (Acts 9:3, 12; 16:9; 18:9 10; 22:6, 17; 23:11; 27:23).
- 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 _____.

Answer Key: Intro. A. weakness, strength. B. loss, gain. C. suffering, blessing. I. Honored. I.A. honored, visions. I.B. different, heaven, earth. I.C. quiet. I.D. sustaining, powers. II. Humbled. II.A. glory, pain. II.B. suffering. II.B.1. human. II.B.2. foolish, disobedient. II.B.3. tool, character. II.C. pain, distress. II.D. permitted, afflict. III. Helped. III.A. no. III.B. disgrace. III.C. healing, help. III.D. gift. Concl.A. easy. B. trust, Lord.