

**THE GIFT OF PAIN**  
**2 COR. 12:7-10 / 9-13-20 / SUN**

**I. FIRST, PAUL LEARNED THAT PAIN HAPPENS.**

- A. Not even the Apostle Paul got a pass on pain.
- B. Paul asked God to take his pain away—v.8.

**II. SECOND, PAUL LEARNED THAT PAIN HAS PURPOSE.**

- A. This is a lesson that no one else can teach us.
- B. Paul reached this conclusion when he realized the purpose of his particular pain was to keep him humble—v.7.
- C. What are some of the lessons we can only learn in pain's classroom?
  1. Pain can strengthen our faith—1 Peter 1:7.
  2. Pain encourages us to pray.
  3. Pain helps us develop perseverance—James 1:2-4.
  4. Pain prepares us to comfort others—2 Cor. 1:3-4.
  5. Pain glorifies God—John 11:4.

**III. THIRD, PAUL LEARNED THAT PAIN HAS POWER.**

- A. God didn't remove Paul's pain, but he did promise to give him power "in" his pain—2 Cor.12:9-10.
- B. The lesson here is that the power of pain can introduce us to an even greater power, the power of God!