



STRENGTH

IN

WEAKNESS

A SERIES IN 2 CORINTHIANS

PARADISE → PAIN → POWER

2CORINTHIANS 12:1-10



PARADISE → **PAIN** → **POWER**



2 Corinthians 12:1

I must go on boasting.



2 Corinthians 12:1

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 Corinthians 12:2

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.



2 Corinthians 12:2

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.



2 Corinthians 12:2

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.



2 Corinthians 12:2

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.



2 Corinthians 12:2

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,

V7- So to keep **me** from becoming conceited because
of the surpassing greatness of the revelations



2 Corinthians 12:3

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—



2 Corinthians 12:4

and he heard things that cannot be told,
which man may not utter.



2 Corinthians 12:5

On behalf of this man I will boast,
but on my own behalf I will not boast,
except of my weaknesses—



2 Corinthians 12:6

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.



Imagine if it's one of us who visited Paradise ...



Imagine if it's one of us who visited Paradise ...

But Paul has kept it hush hush... for 14 years



Imagine if it's one of us who visited Paradise ...

But Paul has kept it hush hush... for 14 years
and furnishes little details...



Imagine if it's one of us who visited Paradise ...

But Paul has kept it hush hush... for 14 years
and furnishes little details...

because he is using this as a background/context for weakness



2 Corinthians 11:30

If I must boast, I will **boast** of the things
that show my **weakness**.



2 Corinthians 12:1

Though there is **nothing to be gained** by it,
I will go on to **visions and revelations** of the Lord.



2 Corinthians 12:5

On behalf of this man I will boast,
but on my own behalf I will not **boast**,
except of my **weaknesses**—



PARADISE → **PAIN** → **POWER**



PARADISE → PAIN → POWER



2 Corinthians 12:7

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.



“I generally find that each expositor has selected that particular thorn which had pierced his own bosom.”

Spurgeon



2 Corinthians 12:7

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.



2 Corinthians 12:8

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this,
that it should leave me.



2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."



Hi Pastor, thanks for the sermon on Sunday. I have been praying cos in a lot of pain
[REDACTED]. I know there is a reason God wants me to go
through this but it's really a lot of pain. Do u think there is always a light at end of the
tunnel? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Trying to keep faith

9:23 pm

Hi [REDACTED] so sorry to hear about it.

I'm sure you are already getting the best medical treatments...

Hi [REDACTED] so sorry to hear about it.

I'm sure you are already getting the best medical treatments...

Biblically speaking,

1. God can heal

Hi [REDACTED] so sorry to hear about it.

I'm sure you are already getting the best medical treatments...

Biblically speaking,

1. God can heal

2. But He does not always do so. Not because He doesn't love us, but because there are even greater reason/s for not healing if He should not.

Hi [REDACTED] so sorry to hear about it.

I'm sure you are already getting the best medical treatments...

Biblically speaking,

1. God can heal

2. But He does not always do so. Not because He doesn't love us, but because there are even greater reason/s for not healing if He should not.

3. There is no promise that all sicknesses will be healed in this life.

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4. But in the resurrection, yes.

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3. There is no promise that all sicknesses will be healed in this life.

4. But in the resurrection, yes.

5. So, the appropriate response is that though we can long and pray for healing, we should also trust and obey if there is no healing.

9:28 pm ✓✓

PARADISE → PAIN → POWER



PARADISE → PAIN → POWER



2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."



2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for my **power is made perfect in weakness.**”



2 Corinthians 12:9

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.**



- We want "no pain"



- We want "no pain"

- God wants "no pride"



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"

- God wants "no pride"



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"

- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"

- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"



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- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"

From sinful pride to glorious power



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"

Better pain than pride



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"

The thorn is not a problem, but a provision



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"

Not grumble bitterly, but boast gladly



- We want "no pain"
- We say "remove my pain"
- We wonder "what purpose?"
- God wants "no pride"
- God says "retain the pain"
- God answers "My power"

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may rest upon me...
For when I am weak, then I am strong*





“Remove my Pain!”

VS

“Reveal my Power!”



“Remove my Pain!”

VS

“Reveal my Power!”

Pride chokes up God’s power in our lives



“Remove my Pain!”

VS

“Reveal my Power!”

Pride chokes up God’s power in our lives
Weakness is the occasion for God’s power



2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**”



2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you,**
for my power is made perfect in weakness.”



HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

And when through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
His grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; He only designs
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.



HE GIVETH MORE GRACE



HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater;
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

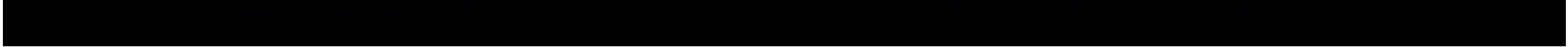


HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.







PAUL'S

THORN

IN THE FLESH





my grace is sufficient for you
for **MY POWER** is made
PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

2 Corinthians 12:9





**WHY
SUFFERING?**



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.

2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV

<http://iliveforjesus.in>



L just as it is written...
LET HIM WHO BOASTS

L **BOAST IN THE**
LORD

1 Corinthians 1:31

Knowing-Jesus.com

MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT
for you



