

Responding to Tough Times—2 Corinthians 12:1–10

Topics: Body, Grace, Health, Heaven, Joy, Pain, Power, Pride, Weaknesses

Open It

1. Why are we typically afraid to disclose our weaknesses to each other?

What-Meditation? (does the Bible say)

1. Who was the man in Christ whom Paul described? (12:2)
2. Why did Paul tell the Corinthians about his vision, despite his misgivings? (12:2–4)
3. Why was Paul reluctant to speak about his vision? (12:3–6)
4. What happened during the revelation Paul described? (12:4)
5. ****Why did Paul refrain from boasting? (12:6)***
6. For what reason might Paul have become conceited? (12:7)
7. What prevented Paul from developing a proud spirit? (12:7)
8. Why did Paul have a “thorn”? (12:7)
9. Who was responsible for giving Paul a “thorn in the flesh”? (12:7)
10. ****What was Paul’s response to his “thorn”? (12:8, 10)***
11. ****What purpose can suffering serve? (12:9)***

So What-Reflection? (what does the text affect or require of me)

1. ****What are some weaknesses or afflictions that you find difficult to live with?***
2. What can we learn from Paul's example about dealing with physical discomfort or hardship?
3. How can you allow the Lord's power to take over where you are weak?
4. How does the Christian perspective on power and weakness differ from that of the world?
5. What weaknesses, handicaps, or problems in your life is God able to use?
6. What does this passage teach us about the problem of evil and God's sovereign will?
7. Why does God choose to heal some people of their sickness or disability and not others?
8. ****How should you respond if God chooses not to heal you?***
9. What difference should it make knowing God has promised you an all-sufficient grace?

Now What-Application? (what do I do now as a result of hearing the Word)

1. ****What weakness can you turn over to the Lord through prayer this week?***