

God's Promise of Thorn-Crushing Grace

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

I. PAUL'S PAIN

a. Paul lived with "infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties." 2 Corinthians 11:23-30; 12:9, 10

b. Paul dealt with "a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan." 12:7

"Thorn" – "stake or spear:" a sharp, significant, deep, painful and limiting chronic burden

II. GOD'S PURPOSE

A. God uses suffering to humble us. 12:7

B. God uses suffering to draw us to Himself. 12:8

C. God uses suffering to force us to rely on Him. 12:9-10

D. God uses suffering to display His grace and power. 12:8-9; 2 Cor. 4:7-9

III. GOD'S PROMISE

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

a. God' grace is enough.

b. God' grace is enough even when we have unremoved "thorns in the flesh."

God's grace runs deeper, reaches higher, stretches broader, and lasts longer than any thorn Satan can ever send our way.

c. God's grace produces persistent, perfected, glorious power. 2 Cor. 12:9