

# **Thank God For The Thorns**

## **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

**Thorns can bring pain or power**

### **A. The Revelation of God – A Picture of Paradise (12:1-6)**

- 1. The Perspective (vv 1-3)**
  - a. Third person
  - b. Overwhelmed
- 2. The Place (vv 2, 4)**
- 3. The Product (vv 4-6)**
  - a. Cannot express in words the sight
  - b. Cannot take away what I experienced

# **Thank God For The Thorns**

## **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

**Thorns can bring pain or power**

**B. The Aggravation of Satan – A Picture of Pain (12:7-8)**

- 1. The Reason for the Aggravation (v 7)**
- 2. The Request about the Aggravation (v 8)**

**C. The Transformation of Paul – A Picture of Power (12:9-10)**

- 1. Thorns Prevent Pride (v 7)**
- 2. Thorns Produce Prayer (v 8)**
- 3. Thorns Perfect Power (v 9)**
- 4. Thorns Promote Praise (v 9)**
- 5. Thorns Prompt Patience (v 10)**

**One More....**

**2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14**

**If given one more chance, take it**

# I. One More Defense (12:11-18)

## 2 Corinthians 12:11-18

11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

# I. One More Defense (12:11-18)

## 2 Corinthians 12:11-18 - continued

**13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.**

**14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.**

# I. One More Defense (12:11-18)

## 2 Corinthians 12:11-18 - continued

**15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.**

**16 But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.**

**17 Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?**

**18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?**

## I. One More Defense (12:11-18)

- A. Do I take one more stand? (12:11)
- B. Do you see the signs of an apostle in me? (12:12)
- C. Do I minister to you differently? (12:13)
- D. Do I burden you? (12:14)
- E. Do I not love you? (12:15)
- F. Do I deceive you? (12:16)
- G. Do I “use” you? (12:17)
- H. Do I keep bad company? (12:18)

## **II. One More Chance to Repent (12:19 – 13:4)**

**2 Corinthians 12:19-13:4**

**19 Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.**

**20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:**

**21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.**

## **II. One More Chance to Repent (12:19 – 13:4)**

**2 Corinthians 12:19-13:4**

**13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.**

**2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:**

## **II. One More Chance to Repent (12:19 – 13:4)**

**2 Corinthians 12:19-13:4**

**3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.**

**4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.**

## **II. One More Chance to Repent (12:19 – 13:4)**

- A. One goal (12:19)**
- B. One fear (12:20)**
- C. One mind (12:21)**
- D. One truth (13:1)**
- E. One standard (13:2)**
- F. One voice (13:3)**
- G. One power (13:4)**

### **Acts 2:46**

**And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,**

### **III. One More Look (13:5-10)**

#### **2 Corinthians 13:5-10**

**5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

**6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.**

**7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.**

**8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.**

### **III. One More Look (13:5-10)**

**2 Corinthians 13:5-10 - continued**

**9 For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong:  
and this also we wish, even your perfection.**

**10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being  
present I should use sharpness, according to the power  
which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to  
destruction.**

### **III. One More Look (13:5-10)**

**A. Three commands to confirm your relationship  
in Christ (13:5)**

- 1. Examine**
- 2. Prove**
- 3. Know**

**B. Three results of a right relationship with Christ  
(13:6-8)**

- 1. Spiritual discernment**
- 2. Approving works**
- 3. Confirming truth**

### **III. One More Look (13:5-10)**

#### **C. Three signs of spiritual maturity (13:9-10)**

- 1. Spiritual strength**
- 2. Spiritual perfection**
- 3. Spiritual edification**

## **IV. One More Encouragement (13:11-14)**

**2 Corinthians 13:11-14**

**11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.**

**12 Greet one another with an holy kiss.**

**13 All the saints salute you.**

**14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.**

## **IV. One More Encouragement (13:11-14)**

### **A. A parting exhortation (v 11a)**

- 1. “Be perfect”**
- 2. “Be of good comfort”**
- 3. “Be of one mind”**
- 4. “Live in peace”**

### **B. A parting promise (v 11b)**

**“God of peace shall be with you”**

### **C. Greet and be greeted (vv 12-13)**

### **D. A three-fold benediction (v 14)**

- 1. Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**
- 2. Love of God**
- 3. Communion of the Holy Ghost**

