



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
August 9, 2026

Next Week: 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Paul is in a section of 'boasting' here in these last 2 chapters. In 2 Cor. 12:1-6, what does Paul say about the extraordinary visions and experiences he received? What details does he emphasize and what does he leave out?
2. What reasons does Paul offer for why he had his 'thorn in the flesh'? Again notice what he does and doesn't include about this significant experience.
3. Notice Paul's response to this thorn (vs. 8) and the reply of God (vs. 9). What result came from this interaction (see vss. 9-10)

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

4. Extraordinary spiritual experiences create a danger of pride. What does this teach us about the relationship between spiritual blessing and humility?
5. The sermon described the Christian life as having mountain peaks and valleys sitting side by side. Paul & Jesus both demonstrate this. Where do you see this in your own life?
6. What do you think God means when He tells Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you"? What is God promising Paul, and what is He not promising?
7. How can God's power be "made perfect in weakness"? Why might weakness sometimes display Christ more clearly than obvious strength or success?
8. Paul eventually says, "When I am weak, then I am strong." How is that different from simply giving up, embracing failure, or refusing to grow?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

9. Where are you most tempted to project strength, competence, success, or an idealized version of yourself rather than simply dealing honestly with reality?
10. What limitation, weakness, hardship, or "thorn" have you repeatedly asked God to remove? How has God used it, or how might He be using it, to deepen your dependence on Him?
11. Where might you be taking on responsibilities God never actually assigned to you? What limitation do you need to receive rather than constantly fight?
12. Paul moved from pleading for thorn removal to saying he could be "content" in weakness because of Christ's power. What would trusting God in your weakness look like this week in one specific situation?