

21 June 2020

Lessons from Paul's Vision and Thorn

(2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

Three Experiences from God, and lessons from them:

1. **Be Thankful for the _____** (vs 1-6, Ephesians 2:5-6)

Lesson: Be grateful for God's miraculous blessings in your life.

2. **Be Thankful for the _____** (vs 7-8)

When God permits suffering, several responses we can have:

A. Become _____ - blame God, give up.

B. Become _____ - allow God to build our faith.

Lesson: In humbling times, I will trust God is working all things for good in my life even if I don't understand it all.

3. **Watch for _____** (vs 9-10)

God's Grace was -

- _____ and
- _____

Lesson: In the trials, I will trust God's grace to be sufficient for me and that Christ will be glorified in my life and response.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

2 Cor. 12:1-10 *"It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. ⁶For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me...*

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

⁹And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."