



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Speaker: Chris Royalty  
Sunday: July 26, 2020

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything that you didn't understand? Discuss.
- 4) Over the previous few chapters and leading up to verses 7-10, the Apostle Paul has been defending his legitimacy as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Other teachers were influencing the church in Corinth and teaching contrary doctrines. Paul is attempting to help the Corinthians understand that he is a legitimate apostle who has been commissioned by Jesus to preach the gospel, grow the church, and speak authoritatively. This defense of his apostleship is necessary, and yet Paul doesn't want the focus to be on himself—he wants the focus to be on Jesus.

Over the course of his ministry Paul had received spectacular revelations from God, but in verse 7 he explains that God had intentionally given him a “thorn in the flesh” in order to keep him humble. (We never learn what this thorn in flesh was).

Have you ever felt as if God has given you a “thorn in flesh” in order to keep you humble? Explain.

- 5) In verse 7, Paul says that this thorn was given to him by God, and also that it was a messenger of Satan. How can a hardship be both from God and also from Satan? Where else in the Bible do we see a similar teaching?
- 6) Paul asked God to take away this thorn in the flesh, and God said “no.” Have you ever felt as if God answered one of your prayers with a “no.” Explain.

- 7) God knows what we need better than we do. Why did Paul need this thorn in the flesh?
- 8) What sorts of things is God teaching you right now?
- 9) Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like God intentionally made you weak so that His grace could be sufficient? Explain.
- 10) In verse 10, Paul says he is “content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.” Do you feel like you’re a content person? Explain.
- 11) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you’ve been learning and discussing.