

April 8, 2015
“Why Does God Allow Suffering?” (pt. 2)
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

- 1) **Keep a Heavenly Perspective** *“I know that this man...was caught up into paradise.”* (3)
- 2) **Use Trials for Growth** *“Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself...”* (7; 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:12)
- 3) **Know that Satan Attacks Moving Targets** *“a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan”* (7b)
- 4) **Take it to the Lord in Prayer** *“Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times to take it away from me.”* (8)
 - a) **God can provide healing**
 - b) **God honors repeated requests**
 - c) **God always answers: “no”, “slow”, “grow”, “go”**
- 5) **Rely on His Strength** *“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, catastrophes, persecutions, and in pressures, because of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”* (9-10)

2Co 12:1-10 “It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: (2) I 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. (3) And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— (4) how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. (5) Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. (6) For 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. (7) And 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. (8) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. (9) And 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. (10) Therefore 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.”

1Pe 1:6-7 “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Jas 1:12 “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

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