

“Jesus in our Disability(s)”

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Opening Questions – Choose one.

- Has your perception of disability(s) changed over the years? Why or why not?
- How do you react when a person shares spiritual experiences that seem completely beyond your reach?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.** So far, how had Paul authenticated his apostleship (see 11²¹⁻³⁰; 6³⁻¹⁰)?

How would this sound if you read it on a pastor’s resume?

2. Paul describes his experience of being caught up to paradise by referring to “a man in Christ” (vv.1-6). Why do you think he refrains from boasting about such an exalted experience (cf. 4⁵⁻⁷; 10¹²⁻¹⁸)?

On what basis does Paul believe he should be evaluated by the Corinthians (v.6)?

3. Opinions concerning Paul’s “thorn in my flesh” (v.7) range widely. While no conclusive answer can be given about the details, what do we know about this “thorn” that Paul faced?
4. How do you react when God appears to be silent in answer to your heartfelt and repeated prayers?
5. What was accomplished by Paul’s repeated prayer to God for the removal of his thorn?
6. In contrast to Paul’s ecstatic experiences, the simple answer to his prayer (v.9) is a revelation that deeply impacted not only him but countless others through the ages. What was unexpected about the answer he received? What effect did this answer have on Paul?
7. In what ways does the apostle Paul’s experience with his “thorn in the flesh” challenge common perceptions of success and credibility, both in his time and today?
8. Discuss any personal experiences or insights you have regarding finding strength and purpose in the midst of suffering or limitations.
9. What impact did the video testimonial of Philip & Robyn Serez have on others? On you?
10. How can our church community better support individuals experiencing chronic illness, disability, or mental health struggles? What practical steps can be taken to offer meaningful support and encouragement?