

New Life Christian Fellowship

Do you live with a “thorn in your side” - An ailment haunting your existence?
“Why doesn’t God heal me?!” you ask.

Paul, author of letters in the Bible, said: “Even though I have received many wonderful revelations from God, so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap (thorn in the flesh) to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times...”
(2 Corinthians)

Most think this “thorn” was a physical disability: blindness, migraines, epilepsy, a speech impediment; some consider it a spiritual “thorn”. Either way, it was an annoying, disabling condition which God refused to remove, even after three times of asking! Why?

Paul answers this: “then he (God) told me: My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.”

How would you feel if this was God’s answer to your *thorn*? Paul responded: “Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.”

What a shocking, life changing, awesome response! In other words “I will not let this thing beat me, when I feel useless, weak, worn out – God steps in and takes control – nothing/no one can stop me, no matter what!”

Next time you feel defeated, think about Paul. Look for the good in **all** things. Give thanks for your blessings. Refuse to give up. Ask for God’s super strengthening Spirit. Paul was imprisoned, persecuted; eventually killed. He never gave up, lived an exemplary life, still influencing millions today.

Take your problems to Jesus, tell him everything. Let him help, you can not loose. Trust in God and he will renew your strength everyday. Thank him for the thorns, because they bring us closer to Him. Never, never give up! You are the apple of God’s eye, he loves you very much!