

# 2 Corinthians – Chapter 12

**Author:** Paul  
**Date:** 55 A.D.  
**Purpose:** for the Corinthians to rebuild trust in Paul as God's Apostle  
**Theme:** Strength in weakness



## Visions and Revelations

*Read 12:1-6*

- † Why is Paul boasting? When is boasting acceptable? (vs 1)
- † Who is the “man” in verse 2? (see also verse 5)
- † Visions of heaven also came to other prophets, which ones?
  - See Revelation 1:9-11; Ezekiel 1:1ff, 37:1ff; Isaiah 6:1ff; 1 Kings 22:19
- † If you had a revelation or vision of heaven, would you tell everyone you know?
- † How many heavens are there, and what is the third heaven? (vs 2)
- † Why do we say that heaven will be “paradise”?
  - See Genesis 2:8-10; Luke 23:43; Revelation 2:7
- † How does a person’s reputation change our opinions of their behavior? (vs 6)

## Strength in Weakness

*Read 12:7-10*

- † How do pride and arrogance hinder the Gospel?
- † What is the “thorn” given to Paul? (vs 7)
- † How does God use trials and trouble in our lives for positive outcomes?
- † How does Satan use trials and troubles in our lives for negative outcomes?
- † Why does Paul stop asking after 3 times? (vss 8-9)
- † Is God’s grace enough for you?
- † How is weakness portrayed in the world today?
- † Our tendency is to boast about our amazing experiences and knowledge to seem strong. Describe the opposite.
- † What did Jesus say from the cross just before He died?
  - See John 19:30 (How does this apply to “is made perfect” in vs 9?)
- † In both letters (First and Second Corinthians) Paul calls our attention to the Theology of the Cross. Explain.

## **The Third Visit**

*Read 12:11-18*

- † How did the Corinthians drive Paul to be foolish? (vs 11)
- † What signs and wonders did Paul show as a sign of his apostleship? (vs 11)
  - Romans 15:18-19
- † Why did all these works require patience? (vs 11)
- † How do you understand verses 13 and 16?
- † What does verse 14 say about Paul's character and motivation?

## **Hope for Real Change**

*Read 12:19-21*

- † Was Paul defending his reputation or Christ's work? (vs 19)
- † What is Paul afraid of when he finally gets back to Corinth? (vs 20)
- † How would God humble Paul, and what would cause him to mourn? (vs 21)
- † How difficult is it for you to hold people accountable?
- † If Paul were to visit our church, what would he say about us?