

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 6, 2012

Paul's Foolish Boasting
2 Corinthians 12:8-9

How did Paul, in spite of the surpassing greatness of his revelations, remain humble before God?

Paul was able to remain humble before God because God gave him a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7).

After Paul had been given "the thorn" and became humbled before God, he initially "implored" God three times, or in other words prayed to God three times, that "the thorn" might leave him (2 Corinthians 12:8).

"Implore" (translated a form of the verb "PARAKALEO") literally means "to call near" (Matthew 8:5; 14:36; Mark 1:40; 5:23; 6:56; 7:32; 8:22; Luke 7:4; 8:41).

The three times that Paul implored God were most likely three separate occasions when the "thorn" was particularly grievous and was causing him significant difficulty in carrying out his apostolic work.

Paul's reward for having humbly and diligently sought the Lord in prayer was the promise of "sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Grace (CHARIS) refers to God's undeserved favor.

Apart from God's grace we could not have been saved (Acts 15:11; 18:27; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; 2:5,8; 2 Timothy 1:9).

Apart from God's grace we could not be sanctified (2 Peter 3:18).

Apart from God's grace we would not be able to be glorified (Ephesians 2:7).

May we by God's grace be quick to come to Him and His throne of grace when all afflictions come into our lives, so that God might reward us with the outpouring of His grace which we so desperately need.