

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 3, 2012

Paul's Foolish Boasting
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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).

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

The Lord's explanation to Paul for why His promise of sufficient grace was such a good thing was this: "for power is perfected in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Paul knew that if he preferred to boast in his strengths rather than in his weaknesses, thinking that he was equal to any task or calamity, the power of Christ would not be able to be unleashed in him nor through him.

Because Paul preferred to boast in his weaknesses rather than in his strengths, it made it possible for Paul to be well content with any affliction, knowing that when he was weak he was strong (2 Corinthians 12:10).

May we by the grace of God, when we are afflicted, seize the opportunity to put the power of Christ on display so that He might be glorified and that we might be identified as a genuine disciple of Christ.