

The Minister: His Spiritual Experiences

2 Corinthians 12: 01–10

1 *His boasting is unprofitable,
but he must defend himself*

2 *He had experienced
unspeakable spiritual experiences —
visions and revelations*

- a. Fourteen years ago
- b. Caught up into heaven
- c. Had an indescribable experience
 - 1) How it was experienced is unknown
 - 2) Was caught up into paradise
 - 3) Heard inexpressible words
- d. A man with such spiritual experiences has the right to boast, but Paul will boast only in his weaknesses
- e. Paul desired to be judged not by such superior experiences, but by what people saw and heard him preach and teach

3 *He had experienced
the spiritual power of Christ*

- a. The need:
To prevent pride
and super-spirituality
by suffering a thorn in the flesh
- b. The desire:
Relief — deliverance

- 1 must go on boasting.
Although there is nothing to be gained,
I will go on to visions
and revelations from the Lord.
- 2 I know a man in Christ
who fourteen years ago
was caught up to the third heaven.
Whether it was in the body or out of the body
I do not know —
God knows.
- 3 And I know that this man —
whether in the body or apart from the body
I do not know,
but God knows —
- 4 Was caught up to paradise.
He heard inexpressible things,
things that man is not permitted to tell.
- 5 I will boast about a man like that,
but I will not boast about myself,
except about my weaknesses.
- 6 Even if I should choose to boast,
I would not be a fool,
because I would be speaking the truth.
But I refrain,
so no one will think more of me
than is warranted by what I do or say.
- 7 To keep me from becoming conceited
because of these surpassingly great revelations,
there was given me a thorn in my flesh,
a messenger of Satan,
to torment me.
- 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord
to take it away from me.

<p>c. The reasons why God refused to remove the thorn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To guard against being puffed up, v. 72) To reveal the power of Christ 3) To teach him to live “for Christ’s sake”	<p>9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.</p> <p>10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.</p>
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