



DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • THANKSGIVING MESSAGE • NOVEMBER 26, 2023

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1116.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text. Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com.

A. A Brief Word about that "Thorn in the Flesh"

“Pastor Joe, what about that _____ that never ends?”

2 Corinthians 12:7–10, NLT – [Paul said] ⁷ ... even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1. The **Nature** of the Thorn: ***Probably physical/medical.*** (v. 7)
2. The **Purpose** of the Thorn: ***To keep him humble.*** (v. 7)
3. The **Giver** of the Thorn: ***“I was given a thorn in my flesh....”*** (v. 7)
4. The **Initial Rejection** of the Thorn: ***“I begged the Lord to take it away....”*** (v. 8)
5. The **Revelation** from God about the Thorn: ***“My grace is sufficient....”*** (v. 9)
6. The **Acceptance** of the Thorn: ***“When I am wear...I am strong.”*** (v. 9-10)

I say to every _____, God will give you one of two miracles, (1) He will give you the miracle of healing (medically or miraculously) or (2) God will give you the miracle of grace to live your life in victory, even though the thorn remains. The second miracle may be the greater of the two miracles.”

- Pastor Joe

B. Casting Your Cares Upon the Lord

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 5:6–7, NASB95 - ⁶ Therefore humble [meaning to be reduced in rank or status—to have a proper estimate of him/herself in relation to God and to others] yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting [lit., to throw off with vigor by an act of the will] all [every single one] your anxiety [the things that worry you; depending on the ending, it can be translated as discontentment, discouragement, despair, questioning, pain, suffering, and whatever other trials you face] on Him [Mighty God—the Bridegroom], because He cares [lit., values] for _____.

1. A **Desired Attitude** is Needed.

1 Peter 5:6, NLT - ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

2. A **Definite Action** is Prescribed.

1 Peter 5:7, NASB95 - ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

3. A **Deliberate Release** is Required.

1 Peter 5:7, NLT - ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

4. A **Divine Destination** is Given.

1 Peter 5:7, NASB95 - ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

5. A **Delightful Reason** is Cherished.

1 Peter 5:7, NASB95 - ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

C. Let's be Genuinely Thankful to God

Philippians 4:6, NIV - ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Psalms 107:1, NASB95 - ¹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalms 28:7, ESV – **A Psalm of David** - ⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.