

The background of the image shows the ruins of an ancient Greek temple, likely the Temple of Apollo in Corinth. The scene is filled with massive stone columns and intricate carvings, including acanthus leaves and geometric patterns. The sky is a clear, bright blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is a decorative, symmetrical geometric pattern in a light, shimmering color. This pattern consists of interlocking lines forming a central square with four pointed corners, surrounded by concentric, stylized arches and lines that create a complex, crystalline structure. The text '2ND CORINTHIANS' is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is positioned between two horizontal lines that are part of the decorative overlay, which also features small, semi-circular motifs at the ends.

# 2ND CORINTHIANS



The Throne  
and  
the Thorn pt. 2

2nd Corinthians 12:7-10



## Recap:

- Worldly
- Unimpressed With Paul
- Confused about ministry and purpose

**2 Corinthians** = A Call to be a  
Counter-Cultural-Cruciform Community



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

**(1)** It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(2) I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

**(3)** And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

**(4)** how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(5) Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(6) For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(8) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

(9) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NKJV

**(10)** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.





## **v. 7 - Thorns**

**Thorns - (skolops) something sharp or pointed, like a splinter or stake**

**(Num. 33:55; Ezek. 28:24; Hosea 2:6)**

**Eye problem prevented “I” problem???**

**(Acts 9:9; Gal. 4:13-15; 6:11; Php 1:29)**

## **v. 7 - Thorns**

**Messenger of Satan -**

(Job 2:7; Matt. 25:41; Luke 13:16; Rev. 12:7, 9)

**Eye problem prevented “I” problem**

(Acts 9:9; Gal. 4:15; 6:11; Php 1:29)

**v. 8 - I pleaded three times..**

**In Prayer: Requests and Repetition**

**(Mat 7:7 ; 26:44; Mark 14:39; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)**

**Possibility:** “That does not mean three times. It is the Hebrew figure for ceaselessly, continuously, over and over again.” (Morgan)



**v. 8 - I pleaded three times..**

**Pleaded = passionate and repetitious**

**That it might depart = escape/healing**

**Concerning this thing = not glorifying or  
identifying in it**

**v. 9 - My grace is sufficient for you**

**Pleaded = passionate and repetitious**

**That it might depart = escape/healing**

**Concerning this thing = not glorifying or  
identifying in it**

**v. 9 - My grace is sufficient for you**

**Christ's power may rest on me =**

**literally, may tabernacle over me**

**(Gen 18:27; Exod 3:11; Judg 6:15; 1 Sam  
18:23; Isa 57:15; 1 Pet. 4:14 )**

**v. 10 - weak / strong**

**take pleasure in = “well contented in.”**

**strong = “powerful” in “the power of Christ” (Rom. 5:1-6; 8:35-39; 2 Co 12:9; 2 Co 13:4; Heb 11:34)**



# Sufficient Grace & Strengthening Grace

1. Humble
2. Prayerful
3. Dependent
4. Compassionate
5. Hopeful
6. Content



## Romans 5:1-6 NKJV -

(1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

## Romans 5:1-6 NKJV -

(3) And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; (4) and perseverance, character; and character, hope.



## Romans 5:1-6 NKJV -

(5) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (6) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.



“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 NKJV







# 2ND CORINTHIANS

The image features a background of ancient stone ruins, likely from the Parthenon in Athens, with intricate carvings and columns. Overlaid on this is a large, white, serif font text "2ND CORINTHIANS". The text is centered and framed by two decorative, symmetrical geometric patterns made of white lines, resembling stylized interlocking arches or a lattice design. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by the tan and brown tones of the stone and the light blue of the sky.



## Resources/ bibliography

1. *David Guzik, 2 Corinthians, David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible (Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013), 2 Co 12:11–13.*
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3. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 675–677.*
4. *Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2291. David K. Lowery, "2 Corinthians," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 583.*
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7. *H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., 2 Corinthians, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 291.*
8. *R. C. H. Lenski, The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963), 1302–1303.*
9. *Douglas Mangum, ed., Lexham Context Commentary: New Testament, Lexham Context Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020), 2 Co 12:7–10.*