



August 4, 2024 | Pastor Keith Krell  
2 Corinthians 12:1-13 | "Grace for Thorns"

**Sermon Application Review from 2 Corinthians 11:16-33**

How did you refuse to exercise authoritarian leadership this past week (11:20–21)?

How did you manifest concern for another believer (11:28–29)?

How did you embrace your weakness (11:30–33)?

**Scripture Reading**

2 Corinthians 12:1–13

1 Corinthians 1:26–31; 4:7

Isaiah 46:9–10

Job 1–2

Job 38

Matthew 26:36–44

Genesis 3:17–18; Revelation 22:3

**Study Questions**

1. How has God supernaturally revealed Himself to you (12:1–4)? How have you interpreted personal experience in light of God's Word? How would you counsel a believer who has experienced various supernatural events? How would you counsel a believer who feels a lack of such experiences?
2. What is your "thorn in the flesh" (12:7)? How have you seen God use this thorn in your life? How do you depend upon God to supply the grace to help you endure? In what ways has God displayed His power in your weakness as you deal with your thorn?
3. When have you asked God to remove your thorn (12:8)? What was His response? If God said "no," how did this impact your view of God? How can you reconcile the seeming contradiction between God's promise to heal and the persistence of suffering and disease?
4. Is someone you know suffering under a persistent thorn in the flesh? What are some ways you can encourage this person? What are some helpful questions you can ask him or her? Think about people at CBC who are suffering. What evidence of God's power have you seen in their lives? How can you encourage them today?
5. How has God's grace been sufficient for weaknesses in your life (12:9)? Read Isaiah 43. How does Isaiah reinforce the idea that God's power is made perfect in weakness? When has God humbled you through suffering? How did suffering grow your faith? How can we view suffering in a way that honors God and advances the gospel?

**Recommended Reading**

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven: Comprehensive Guide to Everything the Bible Says About Our Eternal Home* (Tyndale, 2004)

D. A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil* (Baker 2004)

Kenneth Berding, *Paul's Thorn in the Flesh: New Clues for an Old Problem* (Lexham, 2023)

R. T. Kendall, *The Thorn In the Flesh: Hope for All Who Struggle With Impossible Conditions* (Charisma House, 2004)