



### #3 WHEN GOD SEEMS UNCOOPERATIVE

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#### *Comparison is never good*

Galatians 6:4-5, Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

- When we compare everything and everybody it can quickly become a weapon of self-destruction.

#### *The longer the season goes leads to doubt in God*

- God's lack of cooperation is not an argument for or against his existence.

#### *The Story of the Apostle Paul*

Introduced to us as Saul but later had a name change to Paul.

- Hated Christians
- Saved 3-4 years after Jesus resurrection
- Wrote about half of the New Testament
- He traveled for 20 years by land and sea to hostile places to share the Gospel.

Paid the price

- Imprisoned, Shipwrecked, whipped, snake bitten, beaten with rods, stoned for his faith.
- Very soon after he became a Christian it appears he became afflicted with a physical ailment.

#### *God's promise to Paul is for us today*

2 Corinthians 12:7, Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a **thorn in my flesh**, a messenger of Satan, to **torment me**.

- Paul's prayer and our prayer are not about getting our way but surrendering our will to God's will in our life.

2 Corinthians 12:8, Three times I **pleaded** with the Lord to **take it away** from me.

- 3 Significant seasons of prayer—Petition—Intercession!

2 Corinthians 12:9, 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.

- God freely extends Himself, leaning and reaching to us because He is disposed to bless and be near to us.

2 Corinthians 12:10, 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.

- Are you ok with taking delight in God’s presence instead of the blessings of an answered prayer?

### ***5 Quick Highlights from this passage***

1. We have permission to ask God to remove our thorns.
2. God has permission to say No.
3. God may just be choosing to showcase His power in our weaknesses.
4. You can’t experience God’s sustaining grace while resisting His will.
5. A surrendered will doesn't just come from asking, one must fully trust.