



REDEMPTION
CITY CHURCH

UNSHAKABLES

“THE APOSTLE PAUL”



2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

Sticky Statement: Faith that has not been tested is not real faith.

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given 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. 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. 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. 2 Cor. 12: 7-10

Paul's unshakable thorn in his flesh produced a greater faith in GOD

This thorn in Paul's life is never defined specifically as being physical, psychological, demonic oppression or persecution, so we cannot determine exactly what it was, but what we do know is that the apostle was tormented by it. Paul pleaded with GOD 3 times to remove it. GOD told him that his grace was sufficient for his weakness and that he would have to suffer through it. By Paul not defining his thorn he allowed all of us to be able to identify with his words.

A Radical Reversal transformed Paul's faith in GOD in 3 ways

1. GOD used Paul's _____ to give him a testimony.

“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses” 2 Cor. 12:9b moved from pain into praise and from pleading for release into rejoicing in weakness because he knew he would experience GOD's grace.



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2. GOD's _____ isn't a substitute it's a strength that builds faith that endures hardship.

GOD will meet you in your suffering for HIM and your weakness allows a path for HIM to work in your life.

3. GOD is most glorified when we _____ on HIM.

Surrendered Weakness was modeled by JESUS

4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you. 2 Cor. 13:4

Conclusion;

We must reinterpret the thorn and the circumstances as they did not change in Paul's life as the pain remained, but his understanding of the pain transformed from pleading to peace from questioning to trusting GOD through his testing and strength of his FAITH. Paul learned that he could trust GOD and that GOD would always supply him with grace.

DO THE WORD

This week take the time to really get honest with GOD about your weakness and asked HIM to walk with you in that area. HE will supply you with the grace you need.

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