

General Topics :: Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is?

Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is? - posted by Santana (), on: 2009/2/11 14:23

What constitutes a 'thorn in the flesh'? Can it be fear or depression when the bible says God did not give us a spirit of fear? Obviously not but I'm curious to what you think yours is.

I've struggled with certain things for years and now wondering if it's meant to be there =(

Or maybe we aren't meant to know??

Re: Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is? - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2009/2/11 14:35

You know this will probably be a real good topic maybe I should go for some popcorn. :-P

Seriously, unless there is somewhere in the Word that tells us what our thorn is, my personal belief is we really don't know for sure what our thorn is. We could all guess it's something that's bothering us now or has for years, but if it goes away? was it really our thorn? I think maybe we have lots of different thorns, again I am sure about this only a guess, but I am sure there will be lots of "opinions" here so fire away. :-)

Re: , on: 2009/2/11 15:52

Washington politicians... especially right now.

Krispy

Re: Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is? - posted by run2win, on: 2009/2/11 16:53

Re: a thorn in the flesh--The Bible is clear: a thorn in the flesh is a messenger from Satan. And God's grace is always sufficient!

God's most powerful word to me is this, "Trust Me." I think that is why, in my life, anxiety has always been a "thorn in the flesh." As I've grown in my walk, I see it as a catalyst to pray more and to trust God more. I believe what Jesus said about worry--that I have no power--NONE--over anything, or anyone, or any situation. When the messenger of Satan drives me to worry, I drop to my knees. Anxiety not handed over to the Lord is a faith issue--and God gives me His sufficient grace to resist its power. His grace is always there for me, and it is sin on my part if I do not avail myself of His grace.

I posted the scripture passage below on the thread "God controls Satan," because it is such a good example of just that. Or you could also say, "God allows Satan" or, "God gives Satan permission," because He does. In Paul's case, it was given to keep him from exalting himself. As much as God had revealed to Paul...none of us can fathom the revelations!... God sent the "messenger" from Satan to buffet Paul, to keep him from the sin of pride--particularly, of exalting himself. So how do we identify such "thorns"? I would say that they are temptations, or trials, or situations, or calamities that seem to have no end--these can take many forms--and we want them to go away. And though we often pray that God will "take it away," we know that when He doesn't, it is for our good and His glory. That is the essence of proving our trust.

A thorn in the flesh is an affliction. When Paul speaks of "buffeting," I think of it as invading, or intruding, or persisting; this repeated act of assault requires resistance, which in turn builds strength and endurance. The good news is, that no matter how difficult the challenge, we have victory in all things when we trust Christ. "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philip4:13

2Cor12:7-10 "And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me--to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Consider Peter when Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I h

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ave prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22:31-32 It encourages me that Christ is praying for us when we encounter our "thorns." Jesus is praying for us!! His desire is that we have victory, though when we fail, we can turn again and strengthen others.

And let's not forget Job...

Now this quote from G. Campbell Morgan (found in the SI Text Sermons) and I'm through:

GOD'S SUFFICIENT GRACE

“My grace is sufficient for thee.” Upon that great word many a weary head has rested; many wounded hearts have been healed by it; discouraged souls have heard its infinite music and have set their lives to new endeavor until they have become victorious. That stake in the flesh, that messenger of Satan, is in My grace. It is part of My method. The stake in the flesh is sent. The messenger of Satan is My messenger. That is not something that is against you, but for you. This hard and difficult and trying circumstance is not something outside My providence, My economy, which you must overcome with My help: it is of My purpose, it is My plan. I am high enthroned above all the powers of darkness, and to the trusting soul Satan himself is compelled to be a means of My grace. All your suffering is in My economy. I have poised in My own hand the weight of your burden and know it. Everything that is imposed upon you is under My control. “My grace is sufficient for thee.” It is enough for you to know that what you are suffering is part of my discipline, evidence of My love.

Re: - posted by White_Stone (), on: 2009/2/11 17:35

Quote:

-----Washington politicians... especially right now.

Hi Krispy,

This gives me a hard time, too. Especially when I feel they are not even human. It is like looking into pure evil. My solution is to get out in the yard and clear more trees and brush. The worse they appear to me, the larger the garden will be. And it appears we are going to be able to feed a village. That is, Lord willing the rains come and the seeds sprout. I just bury the seeds, God gives the increase.

white stone

Re: , on: 2009/2/11 17:58

Here is a sermon from Keith Daniel on this topic, <https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=6277&commentView=itemComments>

Re: Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is? - posted by ccchhhrrriiiss (), on: 2009/2/11 18:27

Short answer: I don't know with any degree of certainty just what the "thorn" in Paul's flesh was.

It could have been a person, a physical ailment, a personal struggle or even a literal thorn.

Regardless, the principle is still the same: *"My grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

:~)

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Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2009/2/11 20:37

A thorn in the flesh may be given to those who have had a deep revelation of the Lord Jesus so that they do not get puffed up. It is one of the mercies of God that we may not recognize this side of eternity. Though it is a messenger from Satan it is a hidden blessing. None rebuking will suffice, but grace will be supplied. Read some of the biographies of some of the saints of old and you will see evidence. Spurgeon had one.

Do you desire such a deep revelation? Will you join Peter, James and John on the mountain top?

Re: Can you share what your "thorn in the flesh" is? - posted by shy1 (), on: 2009/2/11 22:54

physical affliction.

Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2009/2/12 13:41

I'm not trying to be funny but can a spouse be the thorn in your flesh? (I'm not married)

Re: - posted by poet (), on: 2009/2/12 16:08

I am certain that as we grow in the Lord and increase in knowledge we will get a thorn to keep us from being puffed up, and boastful.

consider it a mercy from God to keep us from being judged.

The comment that Washington is my thorn makes me laugh because it's not only true but an indictment to us who apparently are not praying effectively enough to have a Godly leadership.. myself included of course.....Please pray for our leadership. :-)

Re: - posted by run2win, on: 2009/2/13 11:56

I think the Washington situation is evidence of what this nation has been sowing--what a vile crop it is! Anyone got a good backhoe?

As to people, even spouses, being thorns--I've had to live in relationships with some pretty prickly people who won't go a way. I think the situations they create can be pretty thorny.

Through prayer and the grace and power of the Lord, we shall endure.