



Week 2, Day 2:

Even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NLT)

The apostle Paul was stricken by some ailment that was not going away. Paul's thorn in the flesh is not described in detail, but it might have been epilepsy, depression, headaches, eye trouble, or recurring malaria. Mark explained that one can begin to accept their weakness when they see it as being given to them by the hand of God. There was a purpose in Paul's weakness. What if there is a purpose in your weakness as well?

Spend some time praying about the suffering you are experiencing. Share honestly with God about what is going on inside your heart.

TAKE ACTION: Take time to pray right now. If you're not comfortable praying on your own, use this as a launching pad:

God, you are the almighty and you know me completely. Please help me deal with the pain of _____ in my life. Help me to keep my focus on you and the plan and mission you have for my life. Use me for your sake. Help me to overcome the struggle of _____ in my thoughts and _____ in my behaviors. Forgive me of my sins. Please give me the peace that transcends all understanding. Amen.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: [2 Corinthians 1:1-11](#).

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

- What purposes do you see in suffering?