



"Thorn in the Flesh"
Be Encouraged series
Pastor Duane Cross, 04.26.20

WHEN YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

[2 Corinthians 12:1-10 \(NLT\)](#)

1 This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. **2** I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. **3** Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know **4** that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. **5** That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. **6** If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, **7** 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. **8** Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. **9** 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. **10** That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- I. What is the nature of the Thorn?
- II. What is the source of the Thorn?

"God whispers to us in pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains." ~C. S. Lewis

- III. What is the purpose of the Thorn?
 - A. To experience God's Grace
 - B. To experience Humility
 - C. That Jesus Christ be glorified