

Refrigerator Notes 05 July 2015
'My Grace is sufficient'
2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (vs. 7b thru 9a)

1. The text tells us that Paul was faced with two issues: not wanting to become conceited in his ministry and keeping a secret that God had shared with him
2. To the first issue, although 'the Super Apostles' were railing against Paul's teachings in the Church of Corinth, a church Paul planted, it was Paul who was made a Super Apostle by Christ Jesus (Acts 9)
3. Paul shares what happened on his faithful encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ, that he was really taken up into the third heavens (2 Corinthians 12) and God shared secrets with him that no man should know about (until John wrote the Book of Revelations)
4. Paul did not want to present himself as being more knowledgeable than the other apostles, therefore, he kept certain things (secrets), which he had received from God to himself
5. God placed a thorn in Paul's side as a reminder to Paul that the revelations he received were not meant to be shared with other men
6. Paul has had a vision which he believes is a revelation from God and Paul explains rather than share his revelation, he would be silent than thought a fool
7. Like a splinter in a hand or finger, it can be very irritating, but Paul's problem was even greater, he had a thorn in his side that must have been painful (although Paul petitioned God three times to remove the thorn)
8. Paul was a special apostle, he was chosen after Christ's return to heaven, to be zealous for the Lord
9. We often testify how we love the Lord, but we fall short on being proactive when it comes to doing the Lord's work and will
10. This thorn is an idiom that Paul speaks of, which is a constant bother to him, however, there were some things that God allowed Paul to share (found in his epistles to the church)
11. We all have thorns in our lives that should move us closer to God: a thorn can be a habit, an addiction, gambling, leukemia, diabetes, stroke, heart attack, paralysis, blindness, etc.
12. Some thorns in life are easier to cope with than some others (but we don't get to decide what our thorn may be, but it will be for the glory of God)
13. These thorns can bring about a positive or negative change in your lives, many people have faced the thorns head on and made them roses, while others have allowed Satan to rule them
14. A few of us have become a thorn in the body of Christ, an irritant, infliction, troublesome, a sore spot, a source of unhappiness and annoyance which displeases God. The greater question is where have you displeased the Lord, while working in the body of the church?
15. Paul had plenty to boast about, but his boasting was in the Lord Jesus Christ, Why? Ans. V.9
16. Like Paul, our biggest weakness can become our biggest strength