



**TITLE | On Being Happy with Thorns**  
**SERIES | Beyond Our Strength**  
**TEXT | 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**  
**BY | Bob Kerrey**  
**DATE | August 28, 2022**

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## SERMON NOTES

**2 Corinthians 12:1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *ESV***

### **BIG IDEA:**

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

**2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *ESV***

## **For Reflection and Application:**

### **Monday:**

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What is Paul's "thorn in the flesh?" Why was it given to him? Was it a punishment? Why is this important?**

### **Tuesday:**

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:7 Who is at work behind Paul's thorn in the flesh? Can God and Satan both be involved? If so, how? Why is this important?**

### **Wednesday:**

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 and Matthew 26:36-44. What parallels can you identify from these two passages. What inferences can you draw from the parallels?**

### **Thursday:**

**Reread 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do these verses help us think rightly about our thorns or weaknesses? What difference does it make?**

### **Friday:**

**Based on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, how would you answer the person who asks, "How can I be happy with weakness?" How can you apply the answer to your own life?**

### **Daily Prayer:**

**Lord, when my thorn is painful, help me to remember and give thanks that your grace is sufficient for me, and your power is made perfect in my weakness. Amen.**