

**Paul's Fourth Letter to the Corinthians – Part 12 (Fall 54)****2 Corinthians 12:1–13****Paul's Visions and Revelations**

- 1 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—
- 4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
- 5 On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to *my* weaknesses.
- 6 For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this*, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees *in* me or hears from me.

**Paul's Thorn in the Flesh**

- 7 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 torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!
- 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.
- 9 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, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- 10 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.

**Proof of Apostleship**

- 11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.
- 12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.
- 13 For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!