

## **Paradoxes to Live by**

### **Power is perfected in weakness**

In II Cor. 10-13, Paul reluctantly feels forced to offer some “counter boasting” in view of people being beguiled by boastful/proud false apostles. He even shares his impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven experience and its paradoxical insight.

Paul gets a thorn from Satan, but God is the thorn-giver. Note the divine passive and good purpose, cf., Job. 2:10, I Sam. 16:14, I Kgs. 22:22, I Sam. 24:1, I Chron. 21:1.

Paul’s thorn = ? Bouts with malaria, epilepsy, ailment, persecution, eye issue (Gal. 4:13,15)?

Paul’s prayer is answered with a “No” and a paradox meant to give him a divine perspective on weakness and power, which Paul at some point gladly accepts.

Consider how this paradox comes into play in terms of why many struggle to respond to the gospel.

What exactly constitutes a thorn in our lives?

See Rom. 5:3-5, Js. 1:2-4,12, I Pt. 2:19ff.

What might be some thorns presently piercing you?

How well are you handling your thorns?

*The martyrs shook the powers of darkness with the  
irresistible power of weakness*      --John Milton