

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

newhebronlr.org

Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr.
Bible Study

*“...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which
are able to make thee wise unto salvation...”*
(2 Tim. 3:15)



The Blessing of Pain

{2 Corinthians 12:7-10}

- v.7) *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*
- v.8) *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*
- v.9) *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- v.10) *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

Context of the text:

- Grace is defined as divine favor that is not earned.
- God's grace is a central theme in the life of Paul and in scripture.
- [Jn. 1:14] speaks of Jesus as being “full of grace.”
- [Rom. 5:2] describes the Christian as standing in grace.
- [2 Cor. 9:8] says we “abound” in grace.
- [Heb. 4:16] explains that we can come boldly before the “throne of grace.”
- Paul is under attack by false teachers who want to introduce their false doctrine. So to gain an audience with the people they tear down Paul [2 Cor. 10:10]. Paul defends himself by comparing his service to theirs [2 Cor. 11:23-28]. Paul is also hurt because the more he loved them, the more they let him down [2 Cor. 12:15].

v.7)

- This verse shows us that God uses painful experiences to humble us. He is willing to go to these lengths because of the problem of pride. [Prov. 16:18; Dan. 4:29-32]
- Let's give some examples of how pride has caused problems in people's lives.

