



DEVOTIONAL 6

THE THORN IN THE FLESH

GREETINGS

The Lord bless you, my brethren. Today is a precious day. All glory is to the Lord. Let's pray.

PRAYER

Father, I thank you, Lord
For this wonderful day
For this beautiful morning
Whose perfection is the evidence of Your creation
And of the wonders that You have created for us, Lord
In this hour, we recognise that You alone are God,
That You are our Lord and Saviour,
And we also recognise that without You, we can do nothing.
We are in Your hands, Lord
We are under Your will,
For Your will is good, acceptable, and perfect.
And Your love wraps us up and shelters us.
We give you thanks, Lord
For Your wonderful Word,
For the teaching, You will present us this morning
And we receive it with humbleness,
And with simplicity of heart
Because we must receive Your Word that way.
I thank You and bless You, Lord
In Jesus's mighty name, Amen.

PRAISE/WORSHIP

My brethren, I invite you to praise the King of kings with joy and gladness. Let's worship Him with the worship song "Psalm 61."



BIBLE READING

My brethren, I want you to open your Bibles in the second epistle to the Corinthians chapter 12 and verse 9:

⁹And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

TEACHING

The name of this devotional is "The Thorn in the Flesh."

This verse, 2 Corinthians 12:9, beloved brethren, was the answer of God to a prayer that the apostle Paul said, to a request the apostle made to the Lord. The apostle Paul had a thorn in his body; some people say this thorn was a disease. In any case, it was a thorn that God allowed to enter the apostle's life lest he would not exalt himself and lest his pride and haughtiness would not be lifted up because of the revelations that the Lord gave him, which he wrote in his powerful epistles. Let's read 2 Corinthians 12:7-8:

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

I want you to listen to this, my brethren: If God had taken the thorn away from Paul, and if God had answered the apostle's prayer, his request, the apostle would have been exalted himself by the revelations of God; the apostle Paul would have fallen into the sin of pride, arrogance, and haughtiness, whose consequence is the abandonment to the Lord Jesus Christ, the abandonment of the gospel, and apostasy. The soul of the apostle Paul would have been lost in Hell.

The thorn in the apostle's body was better than his damnation. Do you think this is harsh? I ask you, dear brethren. But listen, I want you to hear this. What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Says the Lord. Now, listen to this: What profit is it to a man if he has a healthy body, and his soul is lost? What profit is it to a man if he has material things and comfort if his soul is in Hell because he is far from God and His Word?



God is concerned about your salvation; the Lord is concerned about your eternity in His presence; the Lord is interested in delivering us from Hell, from the penalty of eternal damnation, excluded from the glory of His presence and the glory of His power. Hallelujah!

Therefore, the Lord responds to the apostle Paul, saying, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." My brethren, we need to be weak before the Lord, that is, to be humiliated, humble, not haughty, because the proud He knows from afar and rejects him (Psalm 138:6); the proud has no place in His kingdom.

When we are humiliated, when we are weak, and when we have our hearts humbled, the power of God is made perfect in us, and a special fragrance emanates from our lives. Do you know what that fragrance is? That fragrance is the aroma of Christ, the "sweet savour of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15, KJV), the fragrance of His knowledge; that is, my brethren, the fragrance of His Word, the savour of His praise, the pure fragrance as the alabaster of worship for His majesty, power, and greatness.

For Christ's sake, the apostle Paul suffered hardships, stripes, prisons, shipwrecks, persecutions, reproaches, perils of death, hunger, sleeplessness, cold, and nakedness, among other sufferings. In addition to these sufferings, the apostle had a thorn in his body, but from all these, the Word of God that was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit flowed abundantly. All these things, beloved brethren, turned out to be in praise and worship in the hymns that we find in Paul's precious epistles.

What happened to the apostle Paul would seem like a defeat, but it was not; it was not a spiritual defeat. The Word of God teaches us that there are also events that happen to the child of God that seem like spiritual defeats, but these events are not really so. We must discern this because the devil wants us to see these events as defeats in order to weaken our faith and even take it away from us.

We find many examples in the Bible where it seems that God's servants fell before the enemy and that the devil won, but notice that this is not so.

The apostle Paul knew Satan was defeated; Christ defeated Satan on the cross. Paul knew, of course, that the devil was defeated and that his fate would be the lake of fire. The apostle will see him fall; listen carefully, my brethren, when the sentence God Himself placed upon the devil is executed.



The apostle Paul had many attacks during his three missionary journeys, from which he was beaten and even almost died; he himself said that he was about to die and that God allowed this to teach him that He is able to raise up even from the dead.

We often ask ourselves, my beloved, why all this happened to God's servants if God is sovereign and Almighty and keeps His children, and if these servants were men and women of prayer who were in holiness? My brethren, I want you to look at things and events today from the divine perspective, not the human perspective, not with fleshly eyes, but with spiritual eyes.

Every time the apostle Paul travelled and preached, there were converted souls, which in some cases were numerous, and in other cases less; however, even with just one person who received, God did mighty things, for a soul was saved from death, there was great joy in Heaven over one sinner who repented (Luke 15:7) and also was born a new sower of the seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of eternity.

God was speaking of victory, and victory is salvation. Hallelujah! Victory is the eternal promises! Praise the Lord! Victory is the inheritance that awaits us; victory is to endure until the end; that is why the Lord says in Revelation 21:7: "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." Victory means to be a child of God forever, listen carefully my brethren; victory is having the Creator of all things as our God forever; victory is to go to the joy of His presence; victory is to be raptured, to be worthy to escape the judgement of the 7 years of Tribulation that will be poured out on the whole world and that is already at the doors; victory is to be transformed, glorified, quickened by the Holy Spirit of God, by the living God; this is our victory, my beloved brethren!

TIME OF THINKING

Are you suffering at this time? I ask you, beloved brethren. Do you have a thorn in your life? Remember that God is sovereign and allows this thorn for a holy, pure, and eternal purpose: salvation. That is why you must rejoice and give thanks because the King will come soon, we will go home with Him to the New Jerusalem, hallelujah! and we shall have no more weeping, or pain, or death, or sickness, or suffering, or grief, or thorns. Never again, never again, for we will have the glorified body, and we will be in the joy of the presence of the Lord forever. Hallelujah! Now, let us pray:



PRAYER

Father, I thank You for this Word,
A Word of power, authority, and fire.
All that you have received here, my brethren,
Is the Word of eternity,
The Word that gives you the entrance to the New Jerusalem
Oh, this is a Word, a Word of fire, my brethren.
Receive, receive this morning, my brethren,
Receive, receive, oh, receive, receive the manna,
Hallelujah!
You are powerful, Lord.
Oh, I thank You because I know that Your Holy Spirit has been preaching this Word to all my
brethren.
I give glory to the Lord this morning,
My brethren, may the Lord cover you during all this day,
And may the fire of God's Holy Spirit fill you
And take care of your life.
Thank you, Lord
In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray, amen, amen.

Remain blameless, keep sanctifying yourself, and watch and wait for Christ with faith, fire,
and love. The Lord is coming soon. Maranatha!