

**Week Four: *Flaws***  
**2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Have you ever had a moment in your life when you could not tell if you were dreaming, seeing a vision or just lost in your thoughts about God – a surreal state of mind? If so, what was that like for you? If not, have you ever prayed for that experience?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What reason did Paul have to boast?
3. How did Paul describe his state of mind/being in verse 2?
4. Why do you think Paul had such a hard time remembering if he was fully conscious or unconscious in that experience? How long ago did it happen?
5. Is there a single past event in your life that you can remember like it was yesterday? Describe that moment.
6. Are you of the opinion that experiences like Paul's still happen today or were those experiences reserved for the apostles? Explain your answer.
7. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to you in a way that would encourage you and strengthen your faith.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. Do you believe in near death experiences? How would you react to someone who said they visited heaven but then returned in their body to earth?
9. Look again at 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. How did Paul describe what he'd heard in heaven?
10. Why did Paul say in 2 Corinthians 12:5 that he would not boast about his heavenly experience?
11. According to the same verse, about what was Paul willing to boast? Why do you suppose he made that distinction?
12. In your opinion, about what do people mostly boast? What strength do you possess that is "boast-worthy"? What weakness is God using in your life that is worth mentioning to His credit?

13. What do you think it means to be caught up into the third heaven? Google it and see how it has been understood by various people over time.
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for a greater appreciation of God's ability to use your weaknesses for your benefit and the benefit of others.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three**

15. Look again at 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. In verse 7, what does Paul mean when he says, "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations"? What was Paul permitted to see?
16. Why would the greatness of a revelation necessitate a physical hardship?
17. Which do you handle better in life, hardship or blessing?
18. Paul called his struggle a thorn in the flesh. Read Galatians 4:15 and 6:11. Can you recall what happened to Paul during his confrontation with the Lord on the road to Damascus? (See Acts chapter 9.) What do these passages suggest might have been Paul's struggle?
19. Paul had healed others but could not heal himself. What does this teach us about the nature of miracles and miracle workers?
20. Paul also calls his struggle a messenger from Satan. What's the difference between God allowing evil to come into our life vs. God causing evil to come into our life?
21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for greater maturity to handle blessings without becoming proud or less reliant on God.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four**

22. Read God's response to Paul's request for intervention in 2 Corinthians 12:9. What is grace?
23. Do you most often think that unanswered prayer is due to God's favor or God's disfavor with you? Why?
24. Read Matthew 9:1-8. Which is easier, to forgive sins or heal? Which is more important? How did Jesus prove He had the power to forgive sins?

25. Which do you think is easier for God in your life, to remove a burden or support you as you carry your burden in life? Explain.
26. Why do you think so many Christians equate their well-being or lack thereof with God's favor or lack thereof?
27. What's the only true measure of God's love for you?
28. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for a better appreciation of God's grace to support you in the midst of your hardship rather than remove it.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five**

29. Read Hebrews 12:7-11. What's the difference between discipline and punishment?
30. Who suffered the punishment for your sins? Was the price of sin completely paid or only partially paid, leaving a remaining debt for you to pay?
31. Does God punish sinners? Does God discipline sinners?
32. Why would God discipline us like a father disciplines a child?
33. As a child, how did you feel about discipline? Looking back on those times of discipline, how do you view them today?
34. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul learned to give God thanks for his thorn in the flesh. Why?
35. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for a greater ability to let go and let God. In other words, pray to be more content with how God answers your prayers rather than be frustrated by what appears to be hesitance on His part.