



[2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#)

(7) And 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. (8) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. (9) And 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. (10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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Was there ever a man who was given as many gifts as the apostle Paul? Judging from how much [God](#) wrote through him—how much God used his mind, intellect, training, experience, yieldedness, and willingness to work and sacrifice himself on behalf of God and the church—it might have been very easy for him to have been puffed up. He even said himself that nobody worked any harder than he did, writing, "I labored more abundantly than they all" ([1 Corinthians 15:10](#)).

However, he was not bragging. It is not wrong to take the right kind of [pride](#) and to speak the [truth](#) about what we really have done. There is nothing wrong with a developed skill and confidence in our ability to do it. If we do not have any confidence, will we ever offer ourselves in service to others? There must also be a proper recognition of where all that power, strength, and everything flows from. It flows from the gifts, from what God has given.

God mercifully allowed Paul to suffer a physical problem to keep him mindful of his dependence on Him. The truly humble are knowledgeable of their dependence, and they cry out to God continually for help, for what God only can supply: His [Holy Spirit](#), His [love](#), His [faith](#), the [forgiveness](#) of [sin](#), etc. Theirs is not just a feeling of weakness, because everyone, the converted and the unconverted, experiences weakness.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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People with pride experience a feeling of weakness too, but they compensate, not by seeking God's help, but by flaunting what they think others will accept and bring praise to them. As long as a person continues to depend on himself, [this world](#) will continue as it is. Nothing will change. This attitude is illustrated in the beginning so simply. Without actually saying the words, [Adam and Eve](#) told God in Genesis 3, "We don't need you."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Faith \(Part 7\)](#)



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