

The Four Walls of the Church Body

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The 3 Essentials Measurements of Building His Church

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Focus of Today's Study: 2 Corinthians 11:21-33 — 12:1-10

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

An Honest Evaluation of My Own Life:

Satan's Intent for Me and All of God's People:

God's Design for Me in His Church Body:

Serving Through This "Thorn in the Flesh":

God's Answer:

- **2 Corinthians 12:9**
...he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- **Galatians 2:20**
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

1. Review the 4 walls to the Church, and discuss briefly why these walls are equally important in the life of a church body. *(5 minutes)*
2. Review the 3 essential measurements of a building that were taught today, and why each is so important.
 - Take a little extra time to discuss how those 3 measurements can be applied in other parts of your life as well (home, family, business...) as well as the Church. *(10 minutes)*
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-33 slowly together. When you see a hardship, obstacle, or interference that Paul faced, write it down. *(10 minutes)*
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 slowly together. *(15 minutes)*
 - Discuss what the "thorn in the flesh" might look like for each of you personally.
 - Discuss why Satan would want to disrupt the Church Body and disrupt you personally.
5. How is it possible that you and I can be the Holy Body of Christ yet still carry around these "thorns in our flesh"? *(5 minutes)*
6. Spend some time on **2 Corinthians 12:9**. Read it from a few different English translations (for example, NLT, NASB, ESV, CSB) and even a paraphrase of two (Living Bible, The Message, Good News for Modern Man). *(15 minutes)*

(NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- How can we apply "my grace is sufficient"?
- How can we apply "my power is made perfect in weakness"?

TAKE HOME FOR PERSONAL TIME AND REFLECTION

- Read and meditate on **2 Corinthians 12:5-10**.
- Read and meditate on **Galatians 5:19-21**.

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- Read **2 Corinthians 12:11-21**.