

Glorying in Thorns

I. Paul's Internal Conflict: To boast or not to boast!

- Boast as foolishness (11:1, 16, 17, 22-28)
- Real boasting (10:17,18; 11:30) Is this realistic? What do we typically do with our weakness?

II. Paul's Troubling Condition (12:7-10)

A. The Reality:

- The presence of the thorn
- The perpetrator
- The purpose of the thorn (see Psalm 119:71, Genesis 32:31)

In what ways do thorns humble us?

B. The Request:

- Paul seeks deliverance
- "calls along side"

C. The Response:

- Is this a “no”?
- “Sufficient grace” and strengthening grace
- What does grace do in request to thorns

D. The Resolution:

- What is the response upon hearing God’s answer?
- Paul embraces:
 - Infirmities
 - Reproaches
 - Necessities
 - Persecutions
 - Distresses
- Why?

Conclusion: How do we deal with these things?