

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Fearless

Week of May 25, 2019

**Week 6: Facing the Fear of Suffering (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

***2 Corinthians 12:7-10***

Paul learned how to overcome the fear of suffering and we can too. His teaching on the “thorn in the flesh” can help us to see hardship through a biblical lens. When we see suffering as Paul did, it will cease to be as frightening to us.

**Kicking it off:** Share with the group how you celebrated Memorial Day as a child.

### Discussion:

1. Reread *2 Corinthians 12:7* In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

What could Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” be? Offer possibilities.

2. How can a “thorn in the flesh” prevent conceit and foster humility?
3. How can a hardship come from both God and Satan?
4. Can you identify a “thorn in your flesh?” How is God using it to bring about good results?
5. Reread *2 Corinthians 12:8-9a* Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

What does this verse teach us about unanswered prayer?

6. Reread *2 Corinthians 12:9* I will boast gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

How can focusing on our weaknesses result in a manifestation of Christ’s power in our lives?

7. Reread *2 Corinthians 12:10a* That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

Explain how someone can come to actually “delight” in their weaknesses.

**Wrapping It Up:** Pray that God would help you to find His “grace” and “power” in the “thorns” that you face.