

TOPIC 3

Choose our Focus

Private Disciplines

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Therefore... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 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."

There is no way forward, and there's no way out. This is how things are and how they're going to be. As far as you can see, nothing is going to change in the foreseeable future.

Your child just came out, and you are the parent of an LGBTQ child, and that is just the way it's going to be.

So, what do you do when there's nothing you can do, and what do you do to keep from doing things that will only make things worse?

In 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks about what he calls "a thorn in the flesh."

What did the Apostle Paul do when he realized this would not go away?

He did what you have probably been doing repeatedly - pleading with God to take it away.

God's reply emphasized that grace is sufficient and power is made perfect in weakness, which may not seem comforting at the moment.

But focus on the beginning phrase, "In order to... I was given a thorn..."

God had a purpose for Paul. He asked Paul to trust in His grace and to believe that He would use what Paul saw as a weakness to help accomplish His will for the world.

God has a purpose for each of us, including you and your family. He has given you a gift to help fulfill his will in this world, a gift that you may struggle to see as a gift.

As with Paul, it is a gift with a promise and a purpose. Embrace it, don't resist it.

Do you believe that God could change your circumstances if He wanted to?

You have prayed and prayed, but it seems like God is not going to act on your behalf in the way you want, then focus on building the personal discipline to accept your gay child as a gift with a purpose and a promise – a promise that is yet to be revealed.

Reinforcing the Boundaries and Guiding Principles

Before we begin our Circles of Hope discussion, it's important for everyone to review the following guiding principles and boundaries. These are essential for creating a safe and restorative space for those dealing with spiritual trauma.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Play the “long game” and trust God with the outcome.
- Use love to build bridges to Jesus; don't lose the relationship.
- You can love well without losing your convictions of faith.



CIRCLE OF HOPE TOPIC

My child's revelation unleashes so many questions, and I am so frightened for them and their safety, how do I even go about seeing this as a gift with a purpose?