

Combined Table Discussions – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (9-25-22)

Kene: Setting the Scene (5 minutes)

Part I: Discussion: (Verses 1-6)

12 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. **3** And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— **4** and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— **6** though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

Table Discussion (7-10 Minutes)

1. Do you think Paul is talking about himself in the 3rd person? Why or why not?
2. Tell about a time when you've had an impactful spiritual experience.
3. Have you ever boasted about something that happened to you?

Nathanael- Focused Teaching (10 minutes)

1. Boasting about a testimony should be for the benefit of others.
2. Boasting should put God at the center of the story.
3. Boasting should put our own reputation last.

Part II: Discussion: Verses 7-10

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Table Discussion (7-10 Minutes)

1. What does Paul mean by a Thorn in his Side? Do you think other Christians can have Thorns?
2. How often do you Hear Christians boasting about their Weaknesses? Explain Your Answer.
3. What are some of the weaknesses Paul shares about himself in verse 10. Can you relate to any?

Kene- Focused Teaching (7-10 Minutes)

1. God uses Thorns to Keep us from Pride
2. God uses Thorns to Keep us in Prayer
3. God uses Thorns to Display His Power