

## PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH - WHAT WAS IT?

TEXT:

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

***7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet\* me, lest I should be exalted above measure.***

***8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.***

***9 And He said unto me, "My Grace is sufficient for thee: for My Strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me.***

***10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.***



**\* Definition – buffet - - verb; something that strikes with telling force.**

### **Introduction:**

There are many of you who love the sight and fragrance of roses. When you pick a big beautiful rose with a long stem, you had better be careful how you handle the stem. Before smelling that rose, you need to beware of thorns on that stem.

When you are seeking Divine revelation, discernment, word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, divine illumination you will do yourself a favor to ask our Lord to:

### **1. To Crucify your Fleshly Nature . . . the carnal nature**

***Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

**Romans 6:6: *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

## **2. To Deliver you from the OLD MAN**

**Colossians 3:9: *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;***

**Ephesians 4:22-24:**

**<sup>22</sup> *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;***

**<sup>23</sup> *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;***

**<sup>24</sup> *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in Righteousness and True Holiness.***

# **PUT ON THE NEW MAN**

## **3. To Deliver you from captivity to THE LAW OF SIN**

**Romans 7:23: *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.***

**QUESTION:** What was the THORN in the FLESH which was BUFFETING the Apostle PAUL?

### **MAN'S ANSWER:**

- 1.** A New York clergyman said: "Paul's thorn in the flesh was Ophthalmia, a disease of the eyes. He was the sickliest of men having one of the worst oriental diseases. When Paul was before his congregation at Galatia with pus running down over his face, that congregation offered to have their eyes taken out and offered to him."
- 2.** Paul did not get this disease by infection, but He got it from Jesus. He prayed to the Lord to remove it three times, but the Lord refused to heal him. Instead, He offered Paul grace in the place of healing.

3. Another man-made definition of the THORN - - He had a sickness and diseases which left him weak and infirm. We arrive at this by interpreting the Lord's response to Paul's prayer for healing.

a. **2 Corinthians 12:9:** *And He said unto me, "My Grace is sufficient for thee: for My Strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Didn't Paul say in **1 Corinthians 2:3:** *"I was with you in WEAKNESS, and in fear, and in much trembling."*

b. Did not the Church of Corinth say:

**2 Corinthians 10:10:** *For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.*

c. Paul said:

**2 Corinthians 12:10:**  
*"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*



4. **Galatians 4:15:** *Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.*

If his eyes had been all right, they never would have thought of relieving him by giving him one of their own eyes.

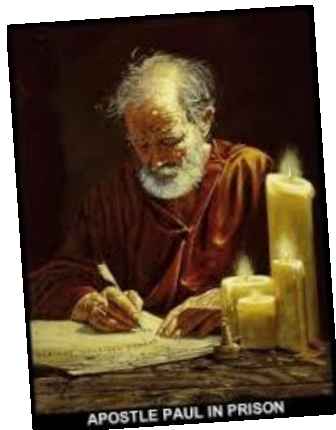
Paul was a double graduate having graduated in the Greek College of Tarsus and the Hebrew Universities of Jerusalem thus having prematurely worn out his eyes.

We have abundant reason to believe what occultists all tell, even me personally, that my eyes are worn out and there is no remedy. Consequently I gave up all reading.

5. Still more GUESSING: Paul had CONSTANT HEADACHES.
6. Still more GUESSING: Paul had CONSTANT EARACHES.
7. Still more GUESSING: Paul had a SPEECH IMPEDIMENT.
8. Still more GUESSING: Paul had chronic MALARIA FEVER.
9. Still more GUESSING: Paul was STOOP SHOULDERED - HUNCH-BACKED.
10. Still more GUESSING: Paul had an UNSAVED WIFE.
11. Still more GUESSING: Paul had EPILEPSY.

That is enough for preachers' and teachers' guesses and theories, and human reasoning. When re-reading the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of 2 Corinthians we hear Paul saying:

**2 Corinthians 12:7-8:**



***<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.  
<sup>8</sup> For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.***

**QUESTION:** Preacher, how would you respond to all these speculations of your fellow ministers?

Having heard all of these arguments and human reasoning and speculations, it

would force us into abandoning all those precious promises of divine healing, recorded in the Bible, if I was following man and not GOD. I choose to believe GOD'S WORD and this is what the Bible has to say on Healing.

- ***Matthew 8:16: When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His Word, and healed all that were sick:***
- ***Matthew 9:35: And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.***
- ***Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.***
- ***Matthew 12:15: But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence: and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all;***

### **THE CARNAL, FLESHLY, OLD MAN NATURE**

- ***Romans 7:23: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.***
- ***Galatians 5:17: For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.***
- ***Romans 8:6-7: <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.***  
***<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be.***
- ***Romans 8:13: For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***
- ***Romans 6:6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

- **Ephesians 4:22-24:**

<sup>22</sup> *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

<sup>23</sup> *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

<sup>24</sup> *And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*



- **Colossians 3:5-6:**

<sup>5</sup> *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

<sup>6</sup> *For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3:**

<sup>1</sup> *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> *I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

<sup>3</sup> *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

## **SPIRITUAL ARMOR is PROVIDED - it is necessary for our PROTECTION**

1. **Ephesians 6:11-17:**

<sup>11</sup> *Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

<sup>12</sup> *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

<sup>13</sup> *Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to*





*withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness;*

*<sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace;*

*<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*<sup>17</sup> And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:*

**2. Romans 13:14:** *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

**3. 2 Chronicles 32:8:** *With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

## **SPIRITUAL WEAPONS PROVIDED**

**QUESTION:** What are they?

### **1. SWORD of the SPIRIT**

**Ephesians 6:17:**

*And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:*

**Matthew 4:4, 7, 10:**

*<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the Mouth of God."*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, "It is written again, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'"*

*<sup>10</sup> Then saith Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"*



## 2. PRAYER

***Ephesians 6:18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;***

***Luke 22:31: And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon, behold, satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:"***

## 3. FAITH

***Ephesians 6:17: And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:***

***Matthew 17:19-20:***

***19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said," Why could not we cast him out?"***



***20 And Jesus said unto them, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, 'Remove hence to yonder place;' and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."***

***Mark 9:17-29:***

***17 And one of the multitude answered and said, "Master, I have brought unto Thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;***

***18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."***

***19 He answereth him, and saith, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto Me."***

***20 And they brought him unto Him: and when He saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.***

***21 And He asked his father, "How long is it ago since this came unto him?" And he said, "Of a child.***



**22 And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if Thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.”**

**23 Jesus said unto him, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”**

**24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.”**

**25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, “Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”**

**26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, “He is dead.”**

**27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.**

**28 And when He was come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could not we cast him out?”**

**29 And He said unto them, “This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”**

**1 Timothy 1:18-19:**

**18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

**19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:**

**Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.**

#### **4. FASTING**

**Mark 9:29: And He [Jesus] said unto them, “This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”**



**Matthew 17:21: Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

## 5. HOLY GHOST

**Matthew 12:28:** *But if I [Jesus] cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you.*

**Luke 11:19:** *And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges.*

**Zechariah 4:6:** *Then He answered and spake unto me, saying, "This is the Word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of Hosts.'"*

## 6. THE PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS

**Revelation 12:11:** *And they [Brethren] overcame him [satan] by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*



## 7. OUR TESTIMONY

**Revelation 12:11:** *And they [Brethren] overcame him [satan] by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

## 7. KEYS to the KINGDOM

**Matthew 16:19:** *And I will give unto thee [all believers] the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.*

**Matthew 18:18:** *Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.*

**Luke 13:12, 16:**

<sup>12</sup> *And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.*

***16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"***

***Galatians 2:4: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:***

## **8. THE COMMANDING AUTHORITY in the "NAME OF JESUS"**

***Matthew 16:17: And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in Heaven."***

***Acts 16:18: And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, "I command thee in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out the same hour.***

***Acts 13:34: And as concerning that He [Lord God] raised Him [Jesus] up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, He said on this wise, "I will give You the sure mercies of David."***

## **Satan's wiles, devices and weapons to DEFEAT THE UNSUSPECTING CHRISTIAN**

### **1. FEAR**

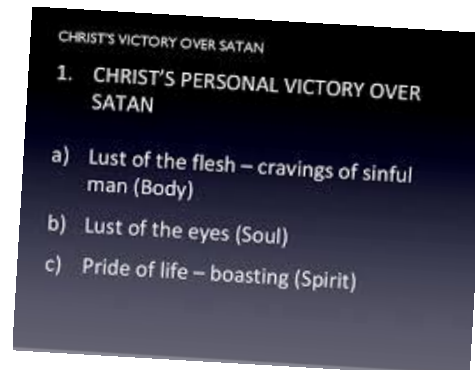
***2 Timothy 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

***1 Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:***

## 2. FLESHLY LUSTS

**1 Peter 2:11:** *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

**1 John 2:16:** *For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*



## 3. PRIDE

**1 Timothy 5:6:** *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*

## 4. OPPRESSION

**Acts 10:38:** *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.*

## 5. BEGUILING AND PERVERTING the minds of people

**2 Corinthians 11:3:**



*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

**Acts 13:10:** *And said, “O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”*

## **6. HINDERING EVANGELISTIC WORK - soul winning**

*1 Thessalonians 2:18: Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but satan hindered us.*

## **7. FALSELY ACCUSING the SAINTS**

*Job 1:9: Then satan answered the LORD, and said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?"*

*Job 2:4-5: And satan answered the LORD, and said, "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.*

*<sup>5</sup> But put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face."*

## **8. ATTACKS the BODIES of GOD'S PEOPLE**

*Job 2:7: So went satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*

*2 Corinthians 12:7: And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

## **CHRIST'S MINISTRY in PROVIDING for our VICTORY over SATANIC FORCES**

- 1. Colossians 2:15: And having spoiled principalities and powers, He [Christ] made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
- 2. Colossians 1:13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son:*
- 3. Luke 4:18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

4. **1 John 3:8:** *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

5. **Matthew 14:14:** *And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*



6. **Matthew 14:35-36:**

<sup>35</sup> *And when the men of that place had knowledge of Him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto Him all that were diseased;*

<sup>36</sup> *And besought Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.*

7. **Matthew 15:30:** *And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and He healed them:*

8. **Luke 6:18-19:** *And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.<sup>19</sup> And the whole multitude sought to touch Him: for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all.*

9. **Acts 5:16:** *There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.*

10. **Psalms 103:1-5:**

<sup>1</sup> *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.*

<sup>2</sup> *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:*

<sup>3</sup> *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases;*

<sup>4</sup> *Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;*



<sup>5</sup> *Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

**11.** *3 John 1:2: Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

**12.** *James 5:14-15:*



<sup>14</sup> *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord:*

<sup>15</sup> *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

**13.** *James 5:16: Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

**14.** *Exodus 23:25: And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.*

**15.** *Exodus 15:26: And said, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the Voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His Sight, and wilt give ear to His Commandments, and keep all His Statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."*

**16.** *Deuteronomy 7:15: And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.*

17. **Jeremiah 30:17:** *“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds,” saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, “This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.”*
18. **2 Corinthians 4:10:** *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*
19. **2 Corinthians 4:11:** *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

**20. Matthew 8:16-17:**

*<sup>16</sup> When the evening was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His Word, and healed all that were sick:*



*<sup>17</sup> That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by*

*Esaias [Isaiah] the Prophet, saying, “Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.”*

**SUMMARY:**



My concern is over the Apostle Paul.

Did HE EVER get DELIVERED from his THORN in the FLESH?

One of **the Most PREVALENT OBJECTIONS to DIVINE HEALING**, which is being raised today, **is PAUL’S THORN IN THE FLESH.**

If those obstacles can be scripturally removed, then all of us will have a new and fresh quickening of our faith to expect the Lord to confirm His Word with us with SIGNS FOLLOWING.

## ANSWER:

***Galatians 4:13-14: Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the Gospel unto you at the first.***

***<sup>14</sup> And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.***

**QUESTION:** Did you take notice of those three words **AT THE FIRST**. Why did the Apostle Paul say this? For if he still had this **INFIRMITY in the FLESH** then these three words would not have been placed in the scripture passage at all, for they would not have been necessary.

Secondly, now take a closer look at verse 14: ***And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.***

**QUESTION:** Did you observe Apostle Paul using that three lettered word “WAS” in this fourteenth verse? Let us look at that verse again. ***My temptation which “WAS” in my flesh, ye despised not, nor rejected . . .***

If the Apostle Paul still had this *infirmity*, he would not be using the *past tense in this verse, would he?*

**ANSWER:** The fact that the infirmity is gone is why he can use the past tense “WAS” and also “AT THE FIRST”, thus pointing backwards to something which *had been*, but which is no longer existing in his flesh.

## **RESPONSE to these THEORIES of a HEALED INFIRMITY**

- 1. Acts 19:11-12: <sup>11</sup>And God wrought [worked] special miracles by the hands of Paul:  
<sup>12</sup> So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**

It would seem contradictory - enough power flowing out of Paul's body to heal diseases and yet that same power to heal his sickness or diseases?

2. Also, the crippled man at Lystra who had never walked received faith to be miraculously healed. Faith would have been hard to come by if Paul had Ophthalmia, a disease of the eyes, and was such a sickly man.

***Acts 14:11: And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.***

3. Some say Paul's eyesight was impaired by the brightness of the light he saw on the Damascus road. My question is: *How come this eye trouble did not catch up with him until after twelve years following his conversion?*
4. That preacher's statement, that God refused to heal Paul, has given rise now to an obstacle in the way of many people's healing. Many precious souls try to console themselves by believing that it is God's Will for them to be sick, because they have PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH.
5. If Paul was sickened and diseased, how come those heathen people on the Isle of Melita were so inspired in faith to be healed of their diseases, including the father of the CHIEF PUBLIUS who lay sick of a fever and a bloody flux.

***Acts 28:8-9:***

***<sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.***

***<sup>9</sup> So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:***

***Galatians 4:13-14:***

***<sup>13</sup> Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the Gospel unto you at the first.***

***<sup>14</sup> And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.***

### **THORNES referenced in the SCRIPTURES**

**I have never found** in the context of this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter where **Paul's thorn in the flesh is interpreted as eye trouble or sickness or disease.**

In searching the Scriptures, we discover something entirely different.

**Examples:**

1. **Numbers 33:55:** *But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.*
2. **Joshua 23:13:** *Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.*
3. **Judges 2:3:** *Wherefore I also said, "I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you."*

6. Paul tells "THE WHY" of his thorn in the flesh.

**2 Corinthians 12:7:** *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

**How many, who claim their illness is PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH, can say that they have had an abundance of revelation, and God allowed this to keep them HUMBLE and delivered from PRIDE?**

This question is not asked unkindly, but is only asked as a means to remove some obstacles out of the way so as to receive our HEALING.

7. PAUL'S THORN in the flesh is described as:

**2 Corinthians 12:7b:** *. . . there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

This messenger of satan was permitted by God to buffet Paul for apparently the same reason why Job was buffeted by satan in his body. Paul had PRIDE troubles and SO DID Job.

In Job Chapters 29 to 31, how many “I” “MY” “ME’s” do you count in each of these three chapters? Also,

**Note how Job PRAISES HIMSELF - 51 times in Chapter 29.**

**Note how Job PITIES HIMSELF - 70 times in Chapter 30.**

**Note how Job JUSTIFIES HIMSELF - 83 TIMES in Chapter 31.**

**While using “I” “ME” and “MY”**

**(cf. Paul in 2 Corinthians Chapters 11 & 12).**

***2 Samuel 23:6: But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:***

### **Paul uses the term “MESSENGER” of satan**

This word appears **188 times**; 181 times as **angel** and 7 times as **messenger**. **In every case it has reference to a PERSON and never a SICKNESS or DISEASE.**

The words **BUFFET ME**, since buffet means to make repeated blows as they did to Jesus, then:

1. To Paul (**as they did to Jesus**) they did spit in his face, and BUFFET him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands?

***Matthew 26:67: Then did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him; and others smote Him with the palms of their hands,***



**Mark 14:65:** *And some began to spit on Him, and to cover His face, and to buffet Him, and to say unto Him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike Him with the palms of their hands.*

**Luke 22:63:** *And the men that held Jesus mocked Him, and smote Him.*

2. **1 Corinthians 4:11:** *Even unto this present hour we [Paul and Apollos] both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;*

3. **1 Peter 2:20:** *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

**SUMMARY:** After considering all these scriptures on THORNS and BUFFETING, we see that both words **have reference to PEOPLE** and **not to sickness or diseases**.

When Paul speaks of *THE MESSENGER of SATAN*, **again, that points to some personality rather than diseased eyes with pus running out.**

When Paul said in **2 Corinthians 12:10:**

***"I take pleasure***

***in INFIRMITIES,***

***in REPROACHES,***

***in NECESSITIES,***

***in PERSECUTIONS,***

***in DISTRESSES for Christ's sake:"***

- - - strange - - - he **did not include in this list these two words - DISEASES & SICKNESSES** . . . IF that is what he had? He did list INFIRMITIES.

## **SATAN'S WORK AT DISABLING PEOPLE'S BODIES**

Now, let us take a closer look at the following Scriptures on satan's work in disabling people's bodies.

- 1. Matthew 12:22:** *Then was brought unto Him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and He healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.*
- 2. Mark 9:25-26:** *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."  
<sup>26</sup> *And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, "he is dead."**

NOW TURNING TO - **The Woman with a spirit of infirmity:**

**Luke 13:11-17:**

<sup>11</sup> *And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.*

<sup>12</sup> *And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."*

<sup>13</sup> *And he laid His hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day, and said unto the people, "There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day."*

<sup>15</sup> *The Lord then answered him, and said, "Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?"*



***16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"***

***17 And when He had said these things, all His adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.***

**QUESTION:**

Did you notice that **this woman also had an INFIRMITY in the FLESH just as Paul did?**

Did you notice that **it came from satan, just like Paul's thorn did?**

**ANSWER:**



Satan BOUND her, but **JESUS** set her free.  
**Praise the Lord.**

Satan BUFFETED Paul with this THORN in the FLESH, but the **same JESUS** set him free!!!

**PRAISE THE LORD!**

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