

## Bible Reading 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

**7** or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is shown in the foreground. It consists of several dark, sharp, and intertwined branches. The background is a soft-focus view of a sandy beach with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

**SERMON**

**“Thorn In The Flesh”**

# SERMON: Thorn In The Flesh



## 2 Corinthians 12

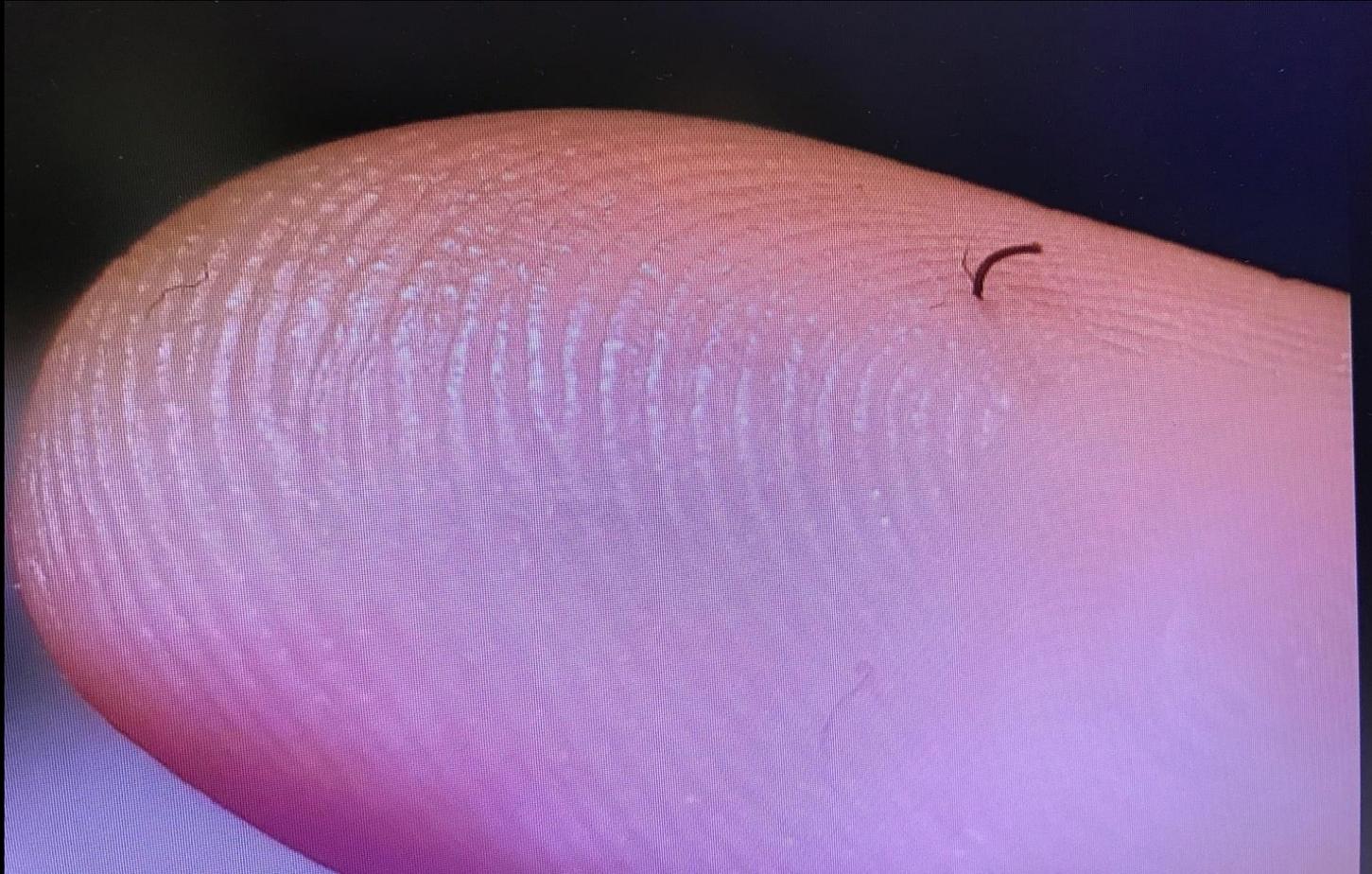
- V7 or because of these surpassingly great revelation. Therefore in order to keep me from being conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of satan to torment me
- V8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me

## 2 Corinthians

- V9 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 about my weakness so that Christ’s power may rest upon me

# Painful thorn



# Paul's impressive background (Philippians 3:5, Acts 22:3)

- Outstanding Apostle-Multiple epistles
- A “pure” Hebrew from tribe of Benjamin
- An expert of the law under Gamaliel- Pharisee
- Shown great and unspeakable revelations
- Performed miracles Acts 14:4-8, 16:18

# What's Paul's Thorn?

- Physical? Eye disease?

Galatians 6:11, 4:13-15

- Spiritual?

2 Tim 4:14 Alexander the copper smith

Acts 13:8 Elymas the sorcerer

## 3 Points

- 1. **SOURCE** of the Thorn
- 2. **PURPOSE** of the Thorn
- 3. **VICTORY** over the Thorn

# 1. Cause of the thorn

## A. IS GOD RESPONSIBLE?

Job contended with God for his sufferings

- Job 2:17 – Satan afflicted Job with painful sores
- John 9:1-3 – Even disciples assumed blindness caused by sin
- Job 1:12, 2:6- God allowed Satan to inflict calamity & diseases

# 1. Cause of thorn

## **B. DO NOT BLAME GOD**

- Reflect
- Pray

**Luke 22:42** Father, if you are willing,  
take this cup from me; yet not my will  
but yours be done

# 1. Cause of the thorn

## C. DO NOT ADD TO THE PAIN !

- Sin led to the suffering?
- **Job 13:5** If only you would be altogether silent! For you that would be wise
- **Job 16:2** I have heard many things. You are miserable comforters, all of you!

## 2. Purpose of thorn

### **A. Humility**

**A person on his knees cannot be a proud person**

James 4:6b That is why Scripture says,  
God opposes the proud but shows favour  
to the **humble**”

Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy and walk  
humbly with God

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE THORN

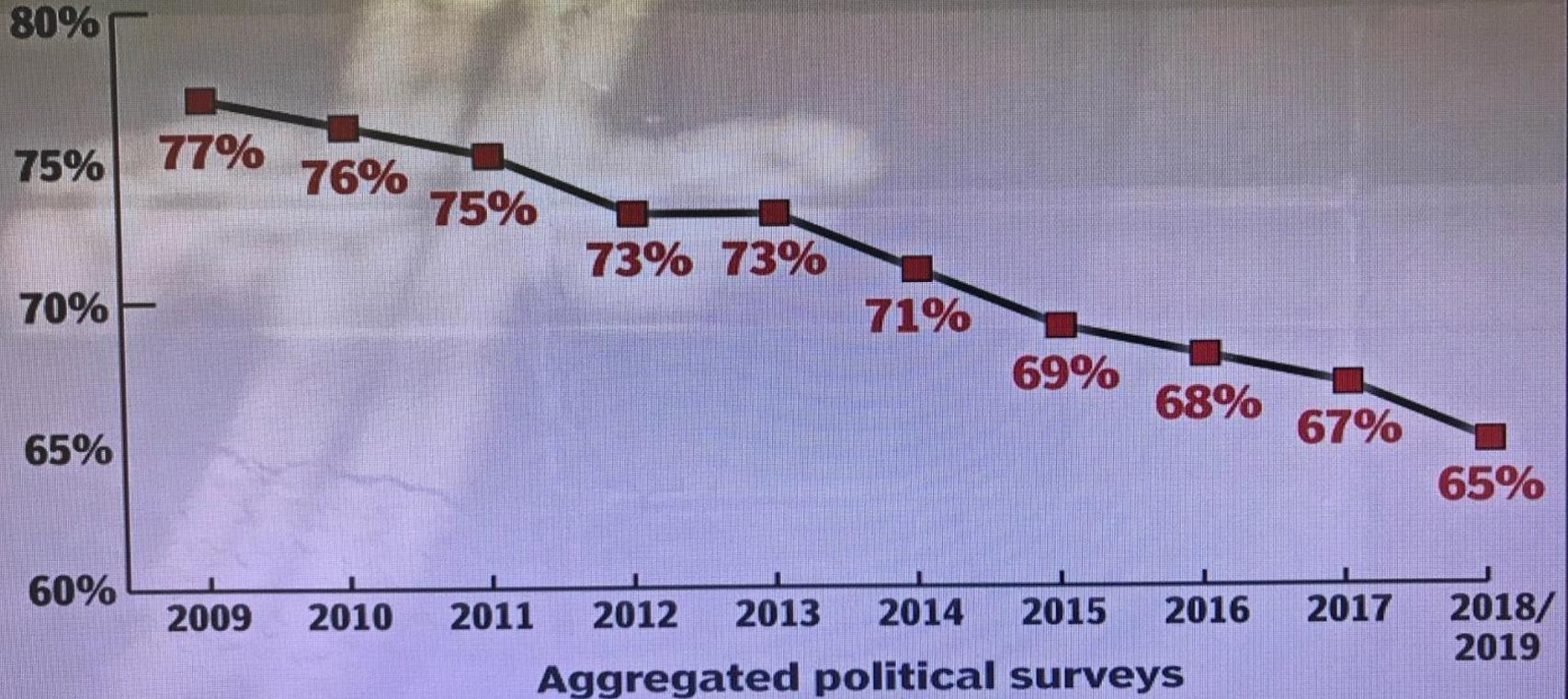
### **B. INTIMACY With God**

Job 42:5 My ears had heard of you but  
now my eyes have seen you!

Weakness ( paradoxically) turned into  
**STRENGTH!**

# Thorn free- Declining Faith!

## Percentage of American adults who identify as Christian



**For Sale!**



**For Sale!**



**For Sale!**



## 2. PURPOSE OF THORN

### C. Comfort those who share the same pain

2 Corinthians 1:4

- who comforts us in all troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God

“I understand the hurt & pain”  
-Does he?

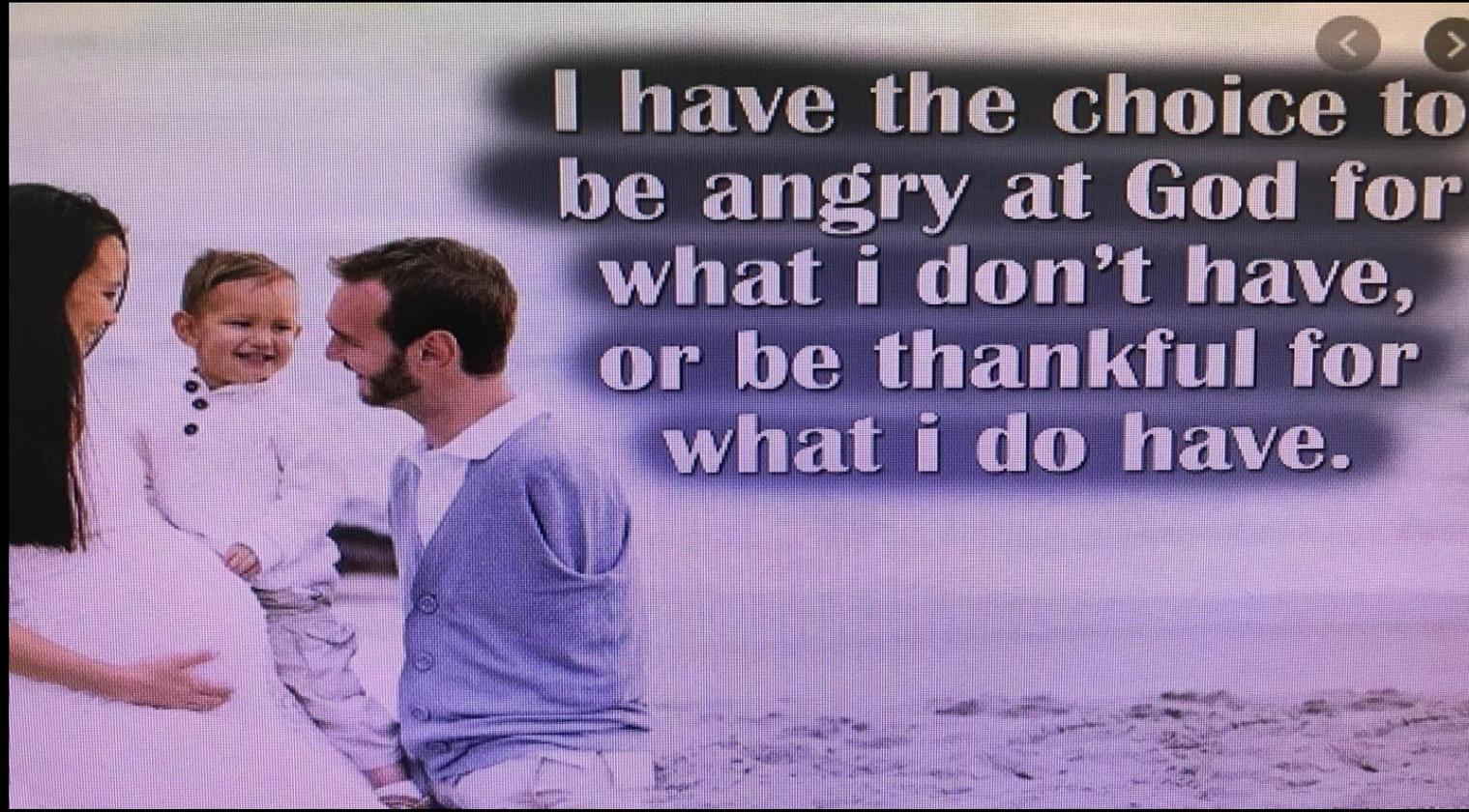


“Sufferers want to be ministered to by people who have suffered” - S. Saint



### 3. A How to overcome the thorn?

-Be **THANKFUL** for what you have!



I have the choice to  
be angry at God for  
what i don't have,  
or be thankful for  
what i do have.

## God answered Nick's prayer

- John 9

V1. As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth

V2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

V3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, " but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Add "Go" to disable = God is able



3. A How to overcome the thorn?

**B. Do not let the thorn hinder your life**

**“GO” and let God enable you!**

Romans 5: 3-4

Not only so, but we also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character; and character hope

What is the thorn in your life?



# CONCLUSION

- Thorn often unavoidable
- Pray for deliverance, seek God's will & purpose
- Don't be disillusioned BUT victorious over it
  - God's power is made PERFECT in our WEAKNESS!