

# **SYNC: Pain with Purpose**

(II Corinthians 12:6-10)

## **Introduction**

- A) Regularly, we hear stories of God bringing triumph out of tragedy, success out of failure, and praise out of pain. Such was the case with the story we just read. God took a potentially discouraging problem and turned it into a source of strength in the Apostle Paul's life.
- B) Contextualize this sermon in the series, SYNC.
- C) Contextualize 2 Corinthians 12.

## **I. Paul's Boastings (11:22-12:4)**

- A) His Heritage (11:22)**
- B) His Service (11:23)**
- C) His Sufferings (11:23-28)**
- D) His Deliverance (11:32-38)**
- E) His Revelation (12:1-4)**

## **II. Paul's Pain (12:7-8)**

### **A) It's Nature (12:7)**

(The word translated thorn was used in a general sense to mean anything pointed, e.g. a stake, a briar, a splinter, etc. It referred to anything sharp and painful. Therefore, a "thorn in the flesh" is an ongoing impairment, injury, weakness, deficiency, or lack that hinders a person in doing ministry. Paul suffered from some type of hindrance probably physical, that caused

him repeated or continued pain.”)

Many have suggested a variety of theories, the most popular is failing eye sight. However, I think is the a physical issue, possibly the result of the abuse he endured. What ever the issue, Paul was a scarred man physically and emotionally.

**B) It's Purpose (12:7)**

(Satan desired the thorn to be a source of discouragement. (v. 6-7) **“Torment” means to strike with a clinched fist.**

God desires the thorn to be a source of spiritual growth.

**C) It's Permanence (12:8)**

### **III. God's Purpose**

**A) Humility (12:7)**

**B) Dependency (12:9)**

**C) Usability (12:9)**

**D) Grace (12:9)**

### **Conclusion**