

## **"THE BLESSING OF THORNS"**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

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### **Introduction**

1. Thorns remind us of the \_\_\_\_\_ between what is and what was.

**Genesis 3:17-19** – And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

2. Thorns remind us we are in danger of \_\_\_\_\_ away from Him.

**Numbers 33:55** – But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell.

**Luke 8:4-8** – And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, <sup>5</sup>"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

3. Thorns remind us to \_\_\_\_\_ on God.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – 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. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should

leave me. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

4. Thorns remind us of Jesus who \_\_\_\_\_ our thorns.

**John 19:1-3** – Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

### **Conclusion**

#### **Prayer**

Dear God, I have never thanked you for my thorns. I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but have I ever thanked you for my thorns? Teach me the glory of the cross that I bear. Teach me the value of my thorns. Show me how I have been drawn closer to you along the path of pain and that through my tears, you bring cleansing. Help me to recall each day that Your mercies are new each morning, Your love is steadfast and How great is Your Faithfulness toward me. Amen.