

How Do We Overcome Our Thorns?

- 1) Pray honestly v8; Ps.145:18; Ps.55:22
- 2) Receive grace v9a; 2Cor.8:9, 9:8
- 3) Boast in weakness v9b; Rom.5:3-5; James 1:2-4
- 4) Trust God's purpose v10; Isa.55:8-9; Ps.9:9-10

What Difference Will It Make In Our Lives?

- 1) Humility — admit my desperate need for Christ.
- 2) Dependence — actively and passionately pursue Christ.
- 3) Intimacy — fullness of joy in Christ's presence.
- 4) Strength — display Christ's power over sin/suffering.
- 5) Ministry — that power becomes a channel of grace to others.
vv11-21

The Gospel Connection: Jesus Himself embraced weakness. He became human, He suffered, He was crucified, and through what looked like weakness—He defeated sin, death, and evil.

The cross looked like weakness—but it was God's greatest act of strength!
1Pet.2:24

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What is a "thorn" in your life right now or in your past?
2. Why do you think God sometimes refuses to remove certain struggles?
3. What is the difference between praying for removal and praying for grace?
4. What does it mean to boast in weakness and how does that change how we view ourselves?
5. Where in your life do you need God's strength most right now?
6. How might your thorn become greater intimacy with Christ, maturity in Christ and a testimony for Christ to someone else?



Coming Up

2025

DEC
1-21

ANGEL TREE

Register online to receive a gift/ or to donate. Or pick up a gift tag in the lobby.

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICES

Three service times
2pm – 4pm -- 6pm

JAN
7

LADIES AM & PM BIBLE STUDIES RESUME

Register online for
childcare

JAN
29

GRIEF SHARE

You are not alone.

dbcc.com for more
information

JAN
30

LADIES BUNCO NIGHT

Register
Online

JAN31
FEB 1

ANNUAL State of the Church Meeting

Looking for more info on all ongoing classes and ministries?

Head on over to dbcc.com



CURRENT SERIES

God > My Highs/Lows – 2nd Corinthians

Next week's sermon – Test Yourselves – 2nd Corinthians 13

DO YOU NEED PRAYER?

- >Elders/Pastors available after every service to pray with you.
- >Call the church office to be added to the prayer chain.
- >Sunday night prayer meeting 6pm, in the lobby
- >Elders meeting 3rd Wed. monthly, Elders available for prayer and anointing.

James 5:14 *Is anyone among you sick? 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.*



Our Café is open 45 minutes before each service. You can order online through the QR code below.



REGISTRATIONS

Check out our website for upcoming events @ dbcc.com
Please register for classes that require Childcare

Church office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am - 3pm 602-374-4588

Big Idea: To live knowing that God > My Highs/Lows is to walk in steady faith—humble in success (heavenly high vv1-6), hopeful in suffering (earthly thorn vv7-10), and confident that God's grace is sufficient in every season of life (overflow of compassion and authentic ministry vv11-21).

Have you ever had something in your life that wouldn't go away? Something you prayed about, pleaded about, fasted about, begged God to remove—and yet it stayed?

Paul calls that kind of thing a thorn.

Something painful and persistent enough to bother you, And without God's help, it could crush you. But with God's grace, it can transform you.

What is a "Thorn in the Flesh"? vv1-7

Definition: A thorn is a...

- a **persistent** and **painful** weakness, limitation, trauma, struggle, or opposition...
- That God allows and sometimes refuses to remove
- For His **greater purpose**

Thorns will test (reveal) your **concept** of God and your **commitment** to God.

Why Do We Have Thorns? vv7-10

- 1) To keep us **humble** v7; Ps.10:4; Ps.119:67, 71; Heb.11:6
- 2) To bring us **closer to Jesus** v9a; Ps.63:3
- 3) To **reveal** God's power v9b; 2Pet.1:3; Col.1:27