

Living with a Thorn

Sfg. Bishop C. Shawn Tyson

[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.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 KJV

- **PowerPoint:** Everything that is happening in your life NOW is preparing you for what God is about to do in your life NEXT.

Many times, our challenge in processing the will of God comes from our limited perception of the word “good”.

James 1:17 KJV

*[17] Every **good** gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Good = Agathos

1. Of good a constitution or nature
2. Pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy
3. Excellent, distinguished
4. Upright, honorable
5. Useful, statutory

Psalm 119:71 KJV

[71] It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Psalm 119:67-68 KJV

[67] Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. 68] Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

Have you been asking: Where is “The Good” in this?

➤ **PowerPoint:** THE GOOD IN IT, IS (GOD) IN IT!

God is “USING” what you think is working against you to reveal himself to you in a new dimension of faith and glory.

1 Peter 4:12-13 KJV

[12] Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Psalm 23:4 KJV

[4] Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for THOU ART WITH ME; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

God is in *it* with you!!

Hebrews 13:5-6 KJV

[5] Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6] So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

THE POWER IS IN THE PRICK

- ❖ Your greatest sermons are in your prick.
- ❖ Your best-selling book is in your prick.
- ❖ That movie script is in your prick.
- ❖ That school for gifted children is in your prick.
- ❖ The new songs you are about to write are in the prick
- ❖ The creative concept for your Fortune 500 business is in your prick.
- ❖ The compassion you need to lead is in your prick.
- ❖ The faith to forgive is in your prick

2 Corinthians 12:10 KJV

[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.

REPLACEMENT THERAPY:

1. We will replace worry with worship
2. We will replace fear with faith
3. We will replace stress with rest
4. We will replace frustration with expectation
5. We will replace cursing with blessing
6. We will replace negative words with positive words
7. We will replace excuses with action
8. We will replace hate with love
9. We will replace frowns with smiles
10. We will replace the blame game with personal accountability
11. We will replace apathy with action
12. We will stop complaining about what we don't have and start thanking God for what we do have.
13. We will stop lamenting over what we lost and start rejoicing over what we have left
14. We will end our pity party and start a praise party

➤ **PowerPoint: *MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE!***