

## ***“God’s Gift of a Thorn”***

Real Ministry in a Dot.Com World • pt. 26

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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### INTRODUCTION

- the strength of weakness  
1 Cor. 1:27-29

#### *1. God’s grace: visions*

- “third heaven”
- divine gag-order

#### *2. God’s gift: a thorn*

- longing to escape from under the thorn

- God’s revelation accompanying the thorn:

#### *a. God’s purpose*

12:7; Mt. 26:39  
Rom. 8:28-29

#### *b. God’s provision*

“The greatest single distinguishing feature of the omnipotence of God is that our imagination gets lost when thinking about it.”  
– Blaise Pascal

#### *c. God’s explanation*

2 Chr. 26:4-21

- Paul’s response to the thorn