

## The Book of 2 Corinthians

# 9

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we will be reading **2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10**. This minor section can be divided into two subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with them. Type out your answers or jot them down on a piece of paper and file your answers with your morning study.

### Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-11:33

- ☞ In his "self-confident boasting," Paul says he is not talking as the Lord would. Why? (**11:16-18**).
- ☞ How does **11:19** relate to **11:4**?
- ☞ Why does Paul give such a long list of his persecutions and suffering? (**11:30**).

### Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

- ☞ Why did Paul usually refrain from this kind of boasting? (**12:6**).
- ☞ Why was a "thorn in the flesh" given to Paul? (**12:7a**).
- ☞ What was God's answer to Paul's pleading to take the thorn away? (**12:8-9**).
- ☞ Why did Paul "boast all the more gladly about his weaknesses"? (**12:9**).
- ☞ Why did Paul delight in weaknesses and persecutions? (**12:10**).

The first 10 verses of **chapter 12** contain two small mysteries:

- ☞ **Who was the man caught up to the third heaven?** – Although **verse 5** could indicate that Paul is talking about someone else, the context of the passage (and particularly **verse 1** and **verse 7**) make it likely that Paul is referring to himself.
- ☞ **What was the thorn in the flesh?** – There has been much speculation, with answers including poor eyesight, malaria or some other physical affliction. The likely answer, however, can be found in the passage's context. **11:23-33** and **12:9-10** would indicate strongly that Paul's thorn in the flesh was the constant persecutions he faced wherever he preached the Gospel.

# Memory Verse

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  
about my weaknesses, so that  
Christ’s power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don’t just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day’s memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week’s memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don’t just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!