

## Do You Have a Thorn in the Flesh?

The story of the apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh is familiar to most of us, but, is it possible the challenges you are facing and the struggles to overcome, similar in your life? Are you connecting the dots?

### Preparing for Your Destiny

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.*

*Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you.”*  
II Cor 12:7-9

The scripture from the apostle Paul is probably familiar to everyone; but, sometimes, we fail to connect the dots to the Biblical principle when applying those principles to our personal struggles.

The apostle Paul was given gifts and revelations above measure so God could use him for the purpose of his calling. Like Paul, each of us has been called by the Father for our own purpose. While we may not know every detail of our calling and purpose at this time, we can rest in the comfort that our calling is designed by the Father and our destiny is to be a chosen vessel in His Kingdom.

So that we won't forget the importance of that calling, we are commanded to go back to the basics, and reflect on our original commitment with Him, the covenant we made with Him at our baptism. He has left for us, annual reminders through the Holy Days that God has called us to a great destiny. Each year we are REQUIRED to take time and reflect upon that knowledge He has given us and to prepare for the Passover. “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

God commands us before we renew our covenant relationship with Him, to reflect upon what it is we are doing, why we are doing it, and to recommit our dedication to Him, the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and our special calling that bonds us to Him as a family member, begotten of Him in the flesh waiting for our birth in the Spirit where we will be together.



Each of us are different. Each of us have different vanities, weaknesses, and personality flaws that need to be kept in check. God knows each of our weaknesses and the carnalities upon which we struggle to overcome in our flesh. God knows how our old man wants to be resurrected to life and control us as it did in the past. The old man is indeed, a powerful influence in our struggles. In God's mercy, like the apostle Paul, we are often left with infirmities, or difficulties to keep us focused upon Him and not given in to those old ways.

Another of God's mercies is found in that He left for us a powerful and very personal revelation from the apostle Paul. On the one side, we see Paul as a powerful mover and builder of the church. Then at the same time in a different part of the scriptures, we see the human side of the apostle Paul as he is pouring out his heart for help in overcoming his own “old man,” that was trying to bring him back into captivity.

*“I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

(Rom 7:21-25 NIV)

In God's great mercy, and wisdom, He chose to bring to us hope in our struggles and allows us to see one of the most powerful witnesses of God's work, just as human as each of us. In this struggle, we can find comfort in God's Word that He is “not a respecter of person.” The message He left for us is - I did it for Paul, I can do it WITH YOU!

### Preparing for Passover

Passover is just over a month away, if you haven't begun your examination yet, now would be a good time to start. Possibly one of the first places to begin is where have you been placing your emphasis in

your day to day life? Has your priority been on “God please remove this problem I have; the health issue I fight, the job disappointment, family problem?” Or has your mind been focused on being grateful as Paul learned, to be *content with the Grace of God?*

There is another vital lesson we must contemplate while we examine ourselves, God is doing the same thing with us. Not only does He evaluate our state of mind, He evaluates our progress from the previous year in our spiritual lives. He evaluates our progress through the fruits we’ve produced from the year before. We are commanded to bring forth fruits fitting for the Kingdom of God. Have we made strides in producing those fruits of Galatians 5, fit for the Kingdom, or have we been so bogged down with something someone has done to us we can’t seem to let go, or focused so much attention to our own problems that we have been just stalled and going nowhere?

No matter where you find yourself, now is the time to put your house, your personal temple - your mind and your body in order, and say as Joshua did, “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!*”

**Our First Gideon Outreach is almost here**

We have met several times with the LeSea Broadcast Executives this past month to plan our strategy for the TV Special “Out of the Mouth of Two Witnesses” and they have composed us a plan of outreach.

It is far more expensive than we can do on our own with the funds we have. However, it is possible through outside support, that much of it, if not all of this aggressive proposal, may be sponsored by Zion Oil and Gas as an outside partner with *God’s Unchanging Word*.

John Brown asked us to send our proposal to him to present to his board for consideration. We have done that as we were asked. It is now in God’s hands. Please remember to pray that God will grant us a positive response. We should know, sometime this month. We will keep you posted, hopefully as soon as our next newsletter.

In Jesus name,



Tom Kerry



**Ten year Anniversary**  
**You're Invited**  
**June 26th-28th 2015**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**Letting Your Light Shine**  
**Conference**

The tentative plans for the church. God willing, and the world hasn't fallen into conditions beyond our abilities to hold a conference, we plan to hold the next national conference during our ten year Anniversary in the summer of 2015.

Much can happen between now and then. God willing any unforeseen catastrophes will occur. We look forward to having everyone attend the conference. 2012, was a tremendous success; we believe that the 2015 conference will be even better.

**The Church of God Ministries International**



**The GIDEON Project**  
**TeleVISION Outreach**

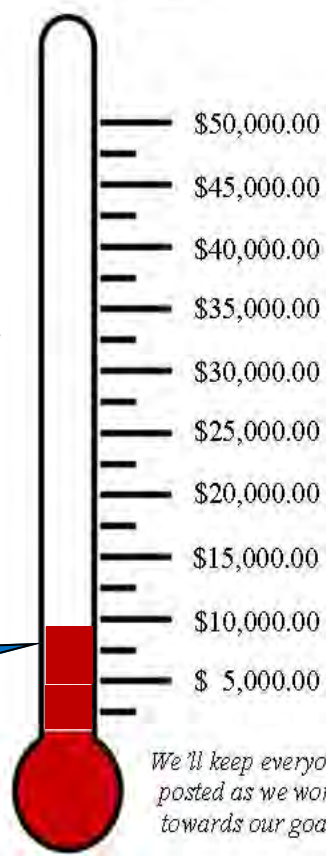
**The Gideon Project**

Our Gideon Project is much like the *widow's mite* we read about in the Bible. We know that each of you who have been so supportive do so not out of an abundance, but through the little you have.

Our church is not filled with the rich and powerful of the world, but with a solid core of individuals dedicated to their calling and desire to give an end time warning message of hope for our soon coming Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless all of those who are partnering with us in our goal for outreach.

**\$8,400.00**



*We'll keep everyone posted as we work towards our goal.*

**MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY**  
 The conference will be held from June 26-28, 2015. We've made arrangements at the Quality Inn and Suites for 61.00 plus tax, per room, and includes a full hot breakfast. The hotel has just gone through new management and is presently being remodeled. Please mention the church when reserving your room. Phone reservations at (504) 366-2361.

We'll be having lots more information in the coming months on the conference.