

# Weakness Is the Way

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – Pastor Nick Thompson

**I. Sanctified suffering delivers us from self-exaltation (v. 7).**

**II. Sanctified suffering delivers us from self-sufficiency (vv. 8-9).**

**III. Sanctified suffering delivers us from self-sagacity (v. 10).**

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Does suffering lead automatically to humility? How does suffering have the potential to actually harden our hearts in pride?
2. Who was the one that inflicted Paul with this thorn?
3. What reason does Paul give for this thorn being given to him in v. 7? What does it mean to be conceited? How does spiritual and physical prosperity tempt us to be conceited?
4. How did God answer Paul's prayer to be delivered from His thorn? What did He give Paul that was even better than deliverance from his suffering?
5. Why is discontentment prideful? What are we saying about God and ourselves when we are discontent?

## QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Does my view of weakness resemble that of the world or that of the gospel? Do I view suffering as an obstacle in the way or as *the way* of Christian fruitfulness?
2. How does prosperity specifically tempt me to pride? What would become of my heart if God were to give me unabated ease, comfort, and prosperity in this life?
3. Am I content in whatever circumstance I find myself? What does my discontentment reveal about my heart? What is it that enabled Paul to be content in great suffering?