

Advancing Through Adversity Part 6

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 10.

B. Paul's thorn was intense and painful. (Mark 14:65)

C. God never told us what Paul's "thorn" was. The important thing to know is that Paul suffered greatly.

II. Lessons from Paul's thorn.

A. There is a divine purpose behind all adversity.

B. We need to ask the reason for suffering.

C. Adversity can be a gift from God.

D. Adversity, though from God, can be very painful.

E. Satan can be the agent by which adversity comes.

F. Even when Paul was hurting tremendously, Paul knew that God was at work.

G. God never scolds us for entreating God to end the adversity.

H. God comforts in adversity.

I. We are never alone in our adversity—God is with us.

J. We can experience God's kindness and favor even when we are suffering.

K. By grace, we are able to endure adversity victoriously.

L. Paul learned how to be content in his weaknesses.

M. God may not see fit to end the adversity.

N. God's power within us reaches its peak at the lowest moments of suffering adversity.

O. The spiritual adversities we suffer are overshadowed by our pain and suffering. The right responses to adversities deepen our fellowship with God.

P. If God does not see fit to remove an adversity He will enable us to live with it.

Q. We can learn not only to live with adversity but also to be content with it.

- R. Present adversity may be preparation for greater adversity to come.
- S. A lesson does not become ours until we are forced to apply it in some form of adversity.
- T. The key to enduring adversity is to see it for Christ's sake.
- U. Adversity equips us to understand and equip others who are going through adversity.
- V. Our adversity should not result in blame and criticism.
- W. If you do not allow adversity, you may deny its purpose in your life.

Application questions:

1. What three principles do you find to be most important? Why?

2. What are some practical and provable ways you can put two of the principles into practice? Explain.

3. How would you respond to someone who has become bitter because of adversity in light of the message?
