

Questions for Consideration—With the Master on Our Knees—The Righteous Attitude and Action to Unanswered Prayer —2 Corinthians 12:7-10

1. (a) According to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 what are some of the reasons God did not answer Paul's prayer? (b) What do you think his "thorn in the flesh" was?

2. Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9.

3. (a) What revelations were Paul referring to in 2 Corinthians 12:7? (For a hint read 2 Corinthians 12:1-6.) (b) How would these revelations be a temptation for pride in Paul's life?

4. (a) When considering the following passages, Exodus 3; 1 Samuel 1; 2 Chronicles 20; Psalm 54; Jeremiah 1:4-10, answer the following questions: Who had a "thorn in the flesh"? (b) What was their particular "thorn"? (c) What was the response of each one? (d) What do these passages along with the passage in 2 Corinthians 12 teach you about those "thorns" in your own flesh? (e) What scripture do you cling to when God doesn't answer *your* prayers?

5. (a) Who else in Scripture prayed three times for something according to Matthew 26:39-44? (b) What was the request? (c) Did God answer their prayer? (d) How does the Matthew passage along with 2 Corinthians encourage you when God doesn't answer your prayers as you had hoped He would?

6. (a) What prayers have gone unanswered in your life? (b) How have you found God's grace to be sufficient even though your prayer is not answered? (c) How have you found His strength to be perfect in your weakness? (d) How do these facts encourage you when God does not answer your prayers?

7. (a) What are some of your "thorns in the flesh"? Have you prayed persistently like Paul? (b) Have you considered what some of the reasons might be that God is not answering?

8. What is your need after studying this lesson? Persistence in prayer? Trusting more in God's grace and strength? Rejoicing in your trials? Please come with a request so we might pray for you.