



Serving With A Thorn (II Corinthians 12:1-10)

Sunday, November 20, 2022 AVBC 10:30 am

- _____ experiences
- _____ experiences
- _____ experiences
- _____ experiences

-II Corinthians 12:6-10

Paul was in the centre of the _____
he was also in the centre of God's _____!

-II Corinthians 12:1-5

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. (I Cor. 1:27-29)

-II Corinthians 1:8-9

Q: What do you do when God gives you a thorn?

1. Pour out your _____ to God. (v.8)

2. _____ carefully for the voice of _____. (v.9)

3. Open up to the _____ of God. (v.9)

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (II Corinthians 9:8)

I am more _____ with this _____
than I would have been without it!

4. Focus on the _____ of God. (v.10) (Rom. 8:28-29)

Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. (I Thess. 5:16-18) (NLT)

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Have you ever experienced the trauma/pain of a physical thorn, splinter or sliver? If so, how did you respond?

Q2: Reflect upon your life. What good, bad, ugly and divine experiences have shaped what you do and how you do it? Can you see how the Lord has "worked all thing together for good" in the midst of your situation?

Q3: Read II Corinthians 1:8-10. How bad did things get for Paul? What emotional extremes did he experience? Can you relate to his desperation? What positives does Paul pull out of his pain?

Q4: Read II Corinthians 1:3-4. What are some of the benefits of pain when it comes to serving the Lord?

Q5: What do you think the "thorn" was in Paul's life that he refers to in II Cor. 12?

Q6: What are one or two "take-aways" you have from this "SAVED TO SERVE" series? How might you serve differently in light what the Lord has said to you?