

OUTLINE

I. _____

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB) 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!



OUTLINE (continued)

PHYSICAL

Weak & Meek 2 Corinthians 10:1 1 Corinthians 9:22-23
2 Corinthians 11:29

Eye ailment Galatians 4:12-15; 6:11

Physical appearance 2 Corinthians 10:10

Speech – Stuttering 2 Corinthians 10:10 2 Corinthians 11:6

Malaria

Epilepsy Galatians 4:14 Conversion experience in Acts 9

Insomnia

Headaches



OUTLINE (continued)

SPIRITUAL

Opposition – Canaanites with Israel Numbers 33:55

2 Timothy 2:17; 4:14; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Demonic - Messenger of Satan Job 1-2; Lk 12:16; 22:31;

Acts 13:10; 1 Thess 2:18; 1 Corin 5:5; 10:10

Opposition by relatives

Spiritual Temptations

Carnal Temptations

Addressing his carnal sinful nature



OUTLINE (continued)

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL

Mental anguish from hardships he suffered

Grief over having persecuted the church

Depression –Disheartened 2 Corin 1:8; Acts 19:23-41.

Psychological flaw or a bad habit



OUTLINE (continued)

II.

2 Corinthians 12:8 (NASB) 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NASB) 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.



OUTLINE (continued)

God Isaiah 41:10 Ephesians 3:7 Ephesians 3:20
Colossians 1:9-12 1 Peter 1:3-5 2 Peter 1:2-3
Revelation 5:13 Revelation 15:7-8 Revelation 16:9
Revelation 19:1

God's Power is Eternal Romans 1:18-20 Hebrews 6:4-6

God is Source of Power Psalm 62:11 Psalm 68:34-35
Daniel 2:17-23 2 Timothy 1:7-10

God's Kingdom is Power Matthew 6:13 Mark 9:1
1 Corinthians 4:18-21

God's Power Unlimited Numbers 11:23 Psalm 147:5
Jeremiah 32:17-20



OUTLINE (continued)

Creation Testifies of His Power Jeremiah 10:12 Jeremiah 27:5
Jeremiah 32:17-20 Jeremiah 51:15-16 Romans 1:18-20

Jesus Christ Philippians 4:13 Mark 5:30 Luke 5:17; 6:19; 8:46;
John 17:2; 1 Corinthians 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 12:9
Ephesians 6:10 Colossians 1:27-29; 2:9-10;
2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 2 Peter 1:16-18
Revelation 11:17-19



OUTLINE (continued)

Holy Spirit Ephesians 3:16 Micah 3:8 Zechariah 4:6
Luke 1:35; 4:14-15; 24:49; Acts 1:8; 10:38-41;
Romans 15:13 Romans 15:18-19 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Ephesians 3:16 1 Thessalonians 1:5 2 Timothy 1:7-10

Sing Psalm 21:13

Worship Psalm 63:1-8

Wait Upon Him Isaiah 40:26-31

Know Christ Philippians 3:10

Ability to Live Christian Life 2 Peter 1:2-3



OUTLINE (continued)

Have Faith Romans 4:16-20 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
1 Peter 1:3-5

Be with the People of God Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Have Weakness & Suffering Trials 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 2
Corinthians 6:4-10 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
(2 Corinthians 13:2-4 Philippians 3:10)

When You Have No Strength 2 Chronicles 14:11
2 Chronicles 20:12 Isaiah 35:3

Word of God is Powerful Hebrews 4:12-13



OUTLINE (continued)

Power of the Resurrection Romans 1:3-5 1 Corinthians 6:14
1 Corinthians 15:42-44 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
2 Corinthians 13:2-4 Ephesians 1:19-23 Philippians 3:10
Philippians 3:20-21 Hebrews 2:14-15

Power Over Demons & Satan Luke 4:36 Luke 9:1-2
Acts 10:38-41 Romans 8:35-39 Hebrews 2:14-15

Defeating Death's Power Acts 2:24 Revelation 20:6

Power to Witness Acts 1:8 Acts 4:31-34 Acts 7:22-29



OUTLINE (continued)

Gospel is the Power of God Romans 1:16-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-20 1 Corinthians 1:23-31

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Power for Miracles Acts 6:8 Acts 7:22-29 Romans 15:18-19

Don't Trust in Your Own Strength Jeremiah 9:23-24; 17:5

Danger of Pride In Your Own Power 2 Chronicles 26:13-16

Isaiah 10:12-14 Ezekiel 24:21 Ezekiel 30:6 Ezekiel 33:28

Habakkuk 1:11 Zechariah 9:3-4



OUTLINE (continued)

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NASB) 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (HCSB) 7 Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.



God's Christmas Gifts

Power

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NASB)



Power



2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NASB)

POWER

I. Weakness



⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NASB)



POWER

I. Weakness

II. Power



⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord
three times that it might leave me.

2 Corinthians 12:8 (NASB)



9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NASB)



¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NASB)

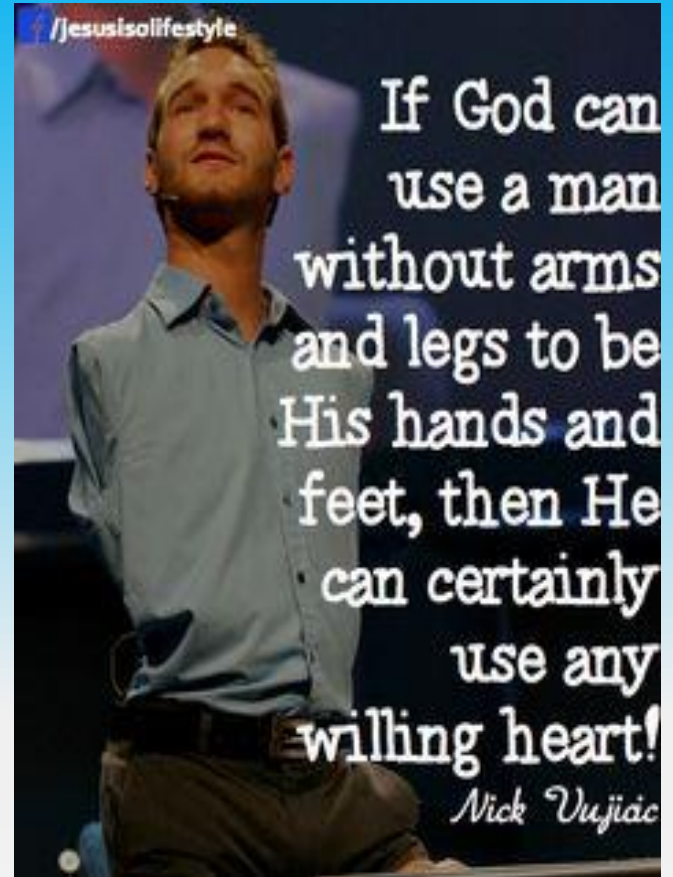




Life without limbs? Or life without
limits?

— *Nick Vujicic* —

AZ QUOTES





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2 Corinthians 12:10 (NASB)



2 Corinthians 4:7
(HCSB) ⁷ Now we
have this treasure
in clay jars, so that
this extraordinary
power may be
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QUESTIONS

1. When have you been perplexed or confused about whether you were being attacked by Satan (spiritual warfare) or if God was allowing a difficulty to refine, purify or protect you? What was it? Please share with the group.
2. What is meant by these expressions: “thorn in the flesh” and “messenger of Satan” ?
3. What is the relationship between “my grace” and “My strength” (2 Corin 12:9)?
4. What did Paul learn from this experience?



QUESTIONS (continued)

5. How is 2 Corin 12:10 a conclusion to all that precedes it in the segment from (2 Corin 11:16 through to 2 Corin 12:13)?

6. Boasting or bragging is found even among those in the church. Do believers brag today about things in their life? What do you think is going on inside of believers when they have to brag about something in their life (Jeremiah 9:23-24)?



QUESTIONS (continued)

7. How can the purposes of infirmities be discerned? When do they come as chastisement? As preventatives? As trials?
8. Do some believers endure infirmities rather than take pleasure in them? What is the difference? What can be done to grow spiritually in this area?
9. How do you think Paul's "thorn" affected his life?
10. How do you react when God appears to be silent in answer to your urgent request? How do you feel about God's promise in verse 9? Why doesn't God simply take the hurt away?



QUESTIONS (continued)

11. How has God worked in and through you during a time of weakness? What will you do to develop trust in God during times of weakness?

12. Pastor Randy has a ton of verses listed under “Power” found throughout the Scriptures. These are given so that you might read them and begin to build into your life and the New Year a focus on and an experience of God’s power. Pastor Randy wants to encourage you, in any “weakness” you find in yourself, to discover the power of the Lord.

