

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Opportunities and Obstacles**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Running the High Hurdles

Romans 12:6-8

Hebrews 12:1-3

Acts 20:22-24

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this week's sermon, we learned some about Paul's "thorn in the flesh." **What was this thorn? We don't know!** And speculation does us no good. Dane Ortlund suggests, "Probably Paul was intentionally vague, not only for maximal application but also to prevent spotlighting his own life any more than necessary. Paul's point is not the content of the thorn but its intent." According to 2 Corinthians 12:7, what was the reason that God gave this thorn to Paul?

When Paul asked for the thorn to be removed, what did the Lord say to him (12:9)? How would this make you feel if you were Paul?

In verse 9, Paul says that he will "boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses." What weaknesses was he referring to? (12:10)

Have you experienced some of these things personally? Insults? Hardships? Persecutions? Calamities? Something else? How has God used these for your good?

Read John 12:24. What is the relation between this teaching from Jesus and Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 12?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 11

Title:

Date:

S

O

A

P

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 11

Describe Paul's tone in this section of the letter. How would you have felt if Paul had spoken to you this way?

Of what did Paul boast to compare himself with the so-called "super-apostles" who had deceived the Corinthians?

What was Paul's purpose in sharing all the trials and difficulties that he suffered (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-30)?

Read verse 28 again. What are these daily pressures that Paul is speaking of here? Why would Paul experience anxiety for all the churches? Do you think this is true of pastors today?