

CouplesInBloom.com – Espoused Thorn

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“And by the superabundance of the revelations, that I not be made arrogant, a thorn (*annoyance*) in the flesh (*human nature*) was given to me, a messenger (*pastor*) of Satan, that he might buffet (*punch*) me, that I not be made haughty. Beyond this I entreated the Lord three times, that it depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Therefore, I will rather (*very*) gladly (*with great pleasure*) boast (*as a wish come true*) in my weaknesses, that the power (*force*) of Christ may overshadow (*be superimposed upon*) me.” ⇨ 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

Another way to say this is: “*Because God speaks great things to me, Satan is allowed to annoy me to the extent that it makes me cry out to God for help in my life. I hate this earthly aspect of hearing God, but He said this crying is how I get His power. Therefore, I view this misery as a dream come true because it is how God makes me like Himself.*”

Application time: you may be married to your thorn; your spouse may feel like Satan’s pastor in your home. Guess what? God’s grace may **not** come for your spouse to change no matter what you do or say or pray because **you need that thorn in your life right now**. It is **not** about your spouse finally seeing the light, but rather about you finally humbling yourself so God can communicate with you even more intimately. **You need to wake up!** **You** may be the very reason for your own thorn. Regardless, it is all for your own good.

Jesus not only embraced the **thorns** for His bride ⇨ John 19:1-3, but also was impaled with a **sword** in His side ⇨ John 19:34... for **you**. Are you greater than Jesus, that you should not live your life to serve rather than be served? ⇨ Mark 10:45. If (and hopefully) not, then stop looking at your life from the perspective of how it impacts **you!** Instead, finally grow up and enter into greater revelation and power by looking at your life from the perspective that your trials are your empowering... only if you use them correctly.

Thorns God allows are **hard** to fight against ⇨ Acts 9:5; 26:14; you will die trying to overcome them and not have any success... so stop it right now. How? With a new view of **TRIALS: The Reason Is Abundance Location**. God is not a sicko who delights in any kind of sin or problem! All things **HAVE TO** work together for good in the Christians life ⇨ Romans 8:28, so start living in that truth: you have to ask, “Okay, this stinks; where is this point (thorn) pointing to?” If no answer comes, humbly continue on; God has timing.

Matthew 10:39 ⇨ “He who finds his life shall lose it. And he who loses his life for My sake shall find it.” Already being saved by undeserved grace ⇨ Ephesians 2:4-10, and already having God give us all things ⇨ 1 Timothy 6:17; 2 Peter 1:3, to live our life seeking improvement is a godless Gospel that needs repenting from. **It is not Biblical**.

“**Yes, it is!**” you argue; “**Jesus drew people by meeting human needs!**” ⇨ Matthew 25:35-45... “**It’s telling people how God provides!**” Philippians 4:19 ⇨ God providing our needs is a **by-product** of serving Him. God **never** promotes humanistic motivational speeches which credit God, or call that Gospel. The Bible promotes **relating** to people ⇨ Matthew 25:35-45 for the purpose **of** the Gospel. **Thorns in relationship** are to **improve** us; they are **how** superabundance of revelation and superimposition of power **come**. ♥ ♥