### 2 Corinthians

## Chapter 12

1Yes, although it isn’t good, I have to brag…  
  
  
Please allow me to pass along some supernatural visions and revelations from [the] Lord:  
  
2I know of a man in the Anointed One who was caught away some 14 years ago (whether [it happened] in the body or out of the body – only God knows) into the third heaven. 3Yes, I know such a man (whether [it happened] in the body or apart from the body – only God knows) 4that was caught away into a paradise where he heard unspeakable things that are illegal for a man to discuss.  
  
5Yes, I’ll boast about a man like that, but I won’t boast about myself, other than about my own weaknesses.  
  
6Also, as I’m boasting, I won’t do it foolishly… I’ll just tell the truth.  
  
I’ll hold myself back lest anyone should give me more credit than what they see in me or what they hear anyone say about me 7when it comes to the surpassing types of revelations that I’ve shown to you.  
  
And so that I wouldn’t become too conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh… A ‘messenger from the Opposer’ who keeps ‘slapping’ me so I don’t get too impressed with myself!  
  
8I’ve begged the Lord three times to remove it from me, 9and he really answered me and said:  
  
 ‘My loving kindness is enough for you, since [your] strength is being perfected [by your] weaknesses!’  
  
Therefore, I’ll gladly boast of my weaknesses so that the power of the Anointed One will cover me like a tent!  
  
10Yes, I [actually] appreciate the weaknesses, the insults, the [times] that I’ve done without, and the persecutions and difficulties that I’ve experienced on behalf of the Anointed One... Because, when I’m weak, that’s when I’m [the most] powerful!  
  
11So now I’ve become foolish… And you’re the ones who’ve made me that way, because I should have been recommended by you! But even if I [really] were nothing, I [still] wouldn’t be less than those super-fine ‘apostles’ in any way.  
  
12Indeed, it was the proofs of [my Apostleship] that produced endurance in you by means of signs, omens, and powerful works. 13So, in what way have you received less than the rest of the congregations… Other than the fact that I wasn’t a burden to you?  
  
Kindly forgive me for this ‘wrong!’  
  
14{Look!} This is the third time that I’ve gotten ready to come to you, and [once again], I won’t be coming as a burden to you, because I’m not looking for the things you have, but for you!  
  
For the children shouldn’t be setting things aside for their parents; parents [should be setting things aside] for their children!  
  
15And as for me, I’ll happily spend and be spent for your lives!  
  
Therefore, if I love you the most, why am I the one who’s loved the least? 16May that be as it is… But I’ve never been a burden to you.  
  
Was I sneaky and did I try to capture you through trickery? 17Or did I try to take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you?  
  
18When I urged Titus [to come to you] and I sent a brother along with him... Did Titus take advantage of you in any way? Don’t we in fact both act the same way and follow in the same footsteps?  
  
19[I hope that] you’ve been thinking about all of this as we’ve been defending ourselves to you, for we’re speaking [to you] before God [and] the Anointed One.  
  
Loved ones, everything [we’ve done is] to build you up!  
  
20Yet I’m afraid that when I arrive, I might not find you to be as I wish… For then I might not be something that you’d wish for either.  
  
I don’t want to find divisions, jealousy, anger, arguing, backbiting, whispering, pride, or disorder.  
  
21For if that happens, perhaps the next time that I come, I’ll be humiliated by my God over you; and then I’ll have to mourn for the many who’ve sinned and not repented their uncleanness, immorality, and the dirty things that they’re doing.