

Grace For Our Thorns

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me." 2
Corinthians 12:8 (English Standard Version)

Isaiah 61:1 - Does the Lord always _____ the _____ doors?

2 Corinthians 12 - When The Lord Lets The Thorn Remain

- A. 12:1-4 - Paul was given an amazing journey to the _____.
_____. Would that make him feel _____ to others?
- B. The thorn given to Paul:
1. 12:7 - The thorn was in his _____, a _____ of Satan, to keep him from becoming _____.
 2. 12:8,9a - Paul _____ that it should _____ him, but the Lord assured Paul of His _____ instead.
 3. 12:9b,10 - That realization made all the _____!
He would not _____ about the thorn.

The Grace God Gives For Our Thorns

A. **The grace of Divine revelation:**

1. 12:9 - The Lord " _____ " things to Paul to help him.
2. John 1:4-5,14 - _____ is God's Divine _____ to us, revealing light, _____ and _____.
3. Isaiah 43:1-3a - The Bible contains _____ statements of God's _____ for His people in times of trial.

B. **The grace of God's power:**

1. 12:9 - Christ's _____ would _____ upon Paul.
2. Matthew 11:28-30 - The _____ we love to read about is that Christ will _____ us with our burdens.
3. Romans 5:2-5 - The _____ of God enables us to _____.
It allows us to _____ in our sufferings.

C. **The grace of a bright hope:**

1. 12:9 - God's _____ would be made _____ in Paul's _____.
2. 1 Peter 1:3 - Christians are _____ again to a _____ hope.
3. 1 Peter 1:6-9 - We are now able to endure various _____ that test our _____ like _____. The outcome will be the _____ of our _____.

Conclusion: Cowper's song reminds us that trials can be looked upon as a _____, drawing us _____ to God.

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