

2 Corinthians 12

King James Version (KJV)

(When they stoned him, Paul was dead for a short while (maybe a few minutes) before they revived him. He is teaching here that he was taken to the Third Age to witness what is waiting for us in Paradise)

12 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

²I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. (Third heaven age, there is only one Heaven) (Paul is saying that it happened to someone else because he didn't want to elevate himself in the eyes of other people)

³And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) (The man was Paul)

⁴How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. (In the Third Age, we will have total recall and understand everything. In this Age, our flesh minds cannot understand all. In this life, it is believed that we only use 10% of our minds)

⁵Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. (Glory for God, not for ourselves)

⁶For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. (Paul was no braggart)

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. (The thorn may have been his very poor eyesight)

⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. (Paul asked God 3 times to heal his eyesight)

⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (God decided that it was part of Paul's punishment for having persecuted Christians. God's grace was all that Paul needed, and God provided it in full measure)

¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (When we are weak, God strengthens us)

¹¹I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. (Paul remained humble, but here he is only telling all this in order to shut down the fake preachers' accusations against him)

¹²Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. (God worked many miracles through Paul, but he kept his ego in check)

¹³For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong. (Paul never took one cent of the church money to support himself. He worked as a tent maker)

¹⁴Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. (Paul wanted to return to see the people, not to take advantage of what they had; like a parent helping the child, not the other way around)

¹⁵And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved. (Paul was willing to use tough love if he had to in order to help them receive salvation from God)

¹⁶But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile. (Paul's tough love put some of them back on

track. Also the rumors against Paul started by the fake preachers were circulating in the church)

¹⁷ Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? (Did Paul or his helpers make any profit at their expense? No they didn't)

¹⁸ I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps? (Paul's ministry was about teaching God's Word, not about making money)

¹⁹ Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

²⁰ For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

²¹ And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed. (If Paul returns he wants to return in friendship and stop the rumors that these people were spreading)