

# **Insights From 2 Corinthians**

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# Insights From 2 Corinthians

by Jonathan Cooper

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
4/29/2024

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## 2 Corinthians

- This letter was written by both Paul and Timothy (2 Corinthians 1:1).
- God comforts us during our times of tribulation (2 Corinthians 1:4). One of the reasons He does this is so we can comfort others.
- Paul refers to our times of persecution and suffering as the "sufferings of Christ". This is because the sufferings of Christ abound in our life when we're persecuted for the sake of the gospel. In other words, we're partaking in His suffering (2 Corinthians 1:5).
- If we suffer for the sake of Christ then the consolation of Christ will abound as well (2 Corinthians 1:5). Persecution is accompanied by consolation.
- Paul believed that when he was persecuted, his suffering was providing consolation to the Corinthians. This is because they could see him as an example of patiently enduring persecution, and that would strengthen them when they were persecuted (2 Corinthians 1:6).
- When Paul wrote this letter, the Corinthian church was suffering (2 Corinthians 1:7).
- It's not wrong to tell other people about the things you've suffered (2 Corinthians 1:8).
- Paul said that in Asia he was persecuted so severely that he thought he was going to die (2 Corinthians 1:8).
- It's not true that God never gives us more than we can bear. In Asia the apostle Paul suffered more than he could bear (2 Corinthians 1:8).
- When Paul was persecuted and thought he was going to

die, he put his trust in God, who he knew would one day raise the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9).

- It's not wrong to seek deliverance from persecution (2 Corinthians 1:10).
- Paul believed that the prayers of the Corinthian church helped him (2 Corinthians 1:11). This means prayer can make a difference.
- Paul wanted to preach the gospel in simple and straightforward ways, instead of seeking the wisdom and schemes of this world (2 Corinthians 1:12).
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, Paul will rejoice in the Corinthian church and they will rejoice in him (2 Corinthians 1:14).
- The reason Paul wanted to visit the Corinthian church was because he rejoiced in them. It wasn't because he was angry with them, but because he sought to help them (2 Corinthians 1:15).
- Through Christ we will receive everything God has promised us (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- God is glorified when He fulfills His promises (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- God is the one who establishes us in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:21). This means God is both the reason we're saved, and the reason we remain saved.
- We have been sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:22). This means our salvation is assured and can't be lost (v22)
- The Holy Spirit is an "earnest payment" (2 Corinthians 1:22). That means He's the first part of our inheritance,



which Jesus gave to us in this life. The Holy Spirit is also a sign that there's more to come.

- All those who are saved in the church age have been sealed by God and given the Holy Spirit, who is sealed within them and cannot be lost (2 Corinthians 1:22).
- It's Biblical to say that the Holy Spirit is in our heart (2 Corinthians 1:22).
- The reason Paul didn't make another visit to the Corinthian church was because he wanted to spare them more pain and grief (2 Corinthians 1:23).
- Paul's previous visit to the Corinthian church had been a difficult and painful one, and he didn't want to put them through that again (2 Corinthians 2:1). This means Paul cared about the impact his visits had on churches. He genuinely cared about their welfare and wanted his visits to be a source of joy.
- Even though Paul had important things to tell the Corinthian church, he was careful about his approach. He considered what impact he was having, and looked for a method that would communicate the truth while not being painful for them (2 Corinthians 2:1).
- Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian church before he wrote this one, in which he discussed the sorrow of the church (2 Corinthians 2:3). That letter was written after 1 Corinthians and no longer exists.
- Paul put a lot of emotion into his letters. Some of them were written with anguish and tears (2 Corinthians 2:4).
- Paul wanted the Corinthian church to know how much he loved them (2 Corinthians 2:4).

- If a person is living in unrepentant sin and is removed from the church, he should be brought back into the church if he repents. The church shouldn't seek to punish him further (2 Corinthians 2:6).
- If the church doesn't forgive someone who repents of his sin, he may be swallowed up in sorrow (2 Corinthians 2:7).
- Churches must be obedient in *all* things (not just some things) (2 Corinthians 2:9).
- If we don't forgive people who have repented then the devil will get an advantage over us (2 Corinthians 2:11). This means one of the ways we can fight the devil is through forgiveness.
- Paul considered fellowship to be so important that he once left an opportunity to preach the gospel because Titus wasn't there (2 Corinthians 2:13). The reason Paul told this story was to teach the Corinthian church that fellowship matters, and they should forgive the man who repented of his sin and bring him back into the church.
- There may be good and valid reasons to not take advantage of an opportunity that God gives us (2 Corinthians 2:13).
- God is the one who causes us to triumph. We achieve victory through Christ (not ourselves) (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- God uses Christians to manifest His knowledge throughout the world (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- When a Christian meets another Christian, they experience a taste of life, which is joy (2 Corinthians

2:16).

- When a lost person meets a Christian, they experience a taste of death (2 Corinthians 2:16).
- There are many who corrupt the word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17).
- Preachers should avoid boasting about themselves, and should instead focus on the Scriptures (2 Corinthians 3:1).
- Paul called the Corinthian church an epistle of Christ, written on the heart by the Spirit of God (2 Corinthians 3:3).
- Trusting in ourselves is foolish because we can't do anything of our own power (2 Corinthians 3:5). Our strength, and our success and life, comes from God.
- The apostles are teachers of the new testament of grace, not the old covenant of works (the Mosaic Law) (2 Corinthians 3:6).
- The old covenant of works (the Mosaic Law) leads to death, not life (2 Corinthians 3:7).
- Even though the old testament led only to death, it had a certain measure of glory about it. This could be seen in the fact that the Israelites couldn't look at the face of Moses because of the glory that was shining from his face (2 Corinthians 3:7). However, the glory of the old testament wasn't eternal. It was temporary and came to an end.
- Although the face of Moses did literally shine at one point, there was a symbolic meaning behind that. Paul connects the glory of his face with the glory of the old covenant, and the temporary nature of that glory to the

temporary nature of the old covenant (2 Corinthians 3:7).

- The old covenant of works was never intended to last forever. It was always meant to be temporary (2 Corinthians 3:7).
- The new covenant exceeds the old covenant in glory, and is better than the old covenant (2 Corinthians 3:9).
- You can't obtain righteousness through the old covenant (the covenant of works). That covenant only leads to condemnation and death (2 Corinthians 3:9). If you want righteousness then you must seek it through the new covenant (the covenant of grace).
- Paul didn't teach that some parts of the old covenant were done away with while other parts remained. Instead he taught that the entire thing was abolished (2 Corinthians 3:11).
- Although Moses did literally put a veil over his face, there was a symbolic meaning behind that. The veil represented the fact that the Israelites couldn't understand the nature of the old covenant (the covenant of works) (2 Corinthians 3:13).
- In the church age, the Jews are still blinded to the nature of the old covenant. When they read the old testament they can't understand it because its meaning is hidden from them (2 Corinthians 3:14).
- The veil that's over the old testament is taken away in Christ. The reason Christians can understand it is because Christ has taken the veil away (2 Corinthians 3:14).
- In order to understand the old testament we need Christ (2 Corinthians 3:14).

- The Lord is a Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- God is changing all Christians into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Glory doesn't come from our works. Instead it comes from the Spirit, as a gift from God (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- God is the one who gives us the opportunities that we have (2 Corinthians 4:1).
- It's wrong for those who have a ministry to handle the Word of God deceitfully. Instead we're required to be honest about what the Bible says, and must never be dishonest or deceitful about it (2 Corinthians 4:2).
- The things we do in life are done in the sight of God (2 Corinthians 4:2).
- The devil has blinded the minds of those who don't believe so that they can't understand the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4). This means the devil actively keeps people from understanding the gospel.
- Christ is the image of God. He is the perfect reflection of God. That means He has the same will and desires as the Father, and He always does whatever the Father tells Him to do (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- The reason we believe the gospel is because God has shone a light in his heart. In other words, God saved us, and that's why we believed (2 Corinthians 4:6). The act of God came first, and our belief came second.
- God is the one who's given us knowledge of His glory (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- The knowledge of God's glory is a light in the world (2

Corinthians 4:6).

- Paul compared Christians to a treasure that's hidden in an earthen vessel. We're creatures made from dust, but the power of God is within us (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- The persecution that Paul suffered didn't bring him distress. He was able to keep going because of the power of God that was within him (2 Corinthians 4:8). This means that although we may be troubled, we don't have to be distressed. We can find strength in God's power.
- Paul said there were times when he didn't understand the things that were happening to him (2 Corinthians 4:8). This means there may be times when things happen to us that don't make sense.
- Although we may not always understand the reason why things happen to us, we don't have to give in to despair. We can have faith and keep going (2 Corinthians 4:8).
- Paul didn't believe that being persecuted meant God had forsaken him (2 Corinthians 4:9).
- Paul saw persecution as partaking in the sufferings of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:10).
- Paul wanted God to use him to make Jesus manifest to the world (2 Corinthians 4:10).
- The reason Christians are persecuted is so that the life of Jesus might be made manifest through us (2 Corinthians 4:11).
- The apostles were delivered to death for the sake of the church. God worked through their martyrdom to save those who were lost (2 Corinthians 4:12). This means God gave death to the apostles so that, through them, He

might give us life.

- God is the one who raised Jesus from the dead (2 Corinthians 4:14).
- Paul said that after the resurrection, he would be presented along with the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 4:14). This raises the possibility that after Jesus raises us from the dead, we will be presented to someone (possibly to God).
- When the church thanks God for the abundant grace that He's given them, that brings Him glory (2 Corinthians 4:15).
- There's a difference between our outward man (our body, which is perishing) and our inward man (which is being renewed) (2 Corinthians 4:16). Our bodies might be dying, but our inward self is not.
- After Paul talked about being put to death for the sake of Christ, he said that was a momentary and light affliction. He considered martyrdom to be a light thing compared to the eternal glory that's to come (2 Corinthians 4:17).
- The things of this world world are temporary (2 Corinthians 4:18). This includes persecution and suffering and pain.
- The things that aren't seen (such as God's promises and the glory that's to come) are everlasting (2 Corinthians 4:18).
- Paul brought up the question of "if" we die (2 Corinthians 5:1). There are some people who won't die because they'll still be alive when Jesus returns.
- Our mortal body is our earthly house (2 Corinthians 5:1).

- Our resurrected body is our eternal house (2 Corinthians 5:1).
- Paul says that having a body is being "clothed", implying that a body is something we wear (2 Corinthians 5:2).
- Instead of wanting to not have a body at all, we should earnestly desire the eternal body that God will give us one day (2 Corinthians 5:3).
- When we die, we don't disappear or enter into "soul sleep". Instead Christians go directly to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- Life in Heaven with Jesus is better than life on earth (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- Christians who have died and are in Heaven seek to please Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:9).
- All Christians will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- Our works will matter in the life to come. Although they don't save us, our Heavenly rewards will be based on them. We will receive something for the good that we did, and for the bad as well (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- Churches should give glory (praise) to those who deserve it (2 Corinthians 5:12).
- The love of Christ constrains us. It doesn't give us the freedom to live as we please, but instead constrains us to do what's right and show love to others (2 Corinthians 5:14).
- We must live for Christ because He died for us (2 Corinthians 5:15).



- God used Jesus to reconcile us to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- God gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). This is a reference to spreading the gospel, because that's how people are saved and reconciled to God.
- Paul says that God made Christ "to be sin for us" even though Christ was sinless. This means God punished Christ for our sins instead of us, so we could be declared righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Christ is at work in this world (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- Living in sin frustrates the grace of God, because He gave us grace so that we would no longer live in sin (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- The way to be approved as a worker of God is to endure afflictions (2 Corinthians 6:4).
- Paul believed that being beaten, imprisoned, and assaulted by a violent mob was a normal part of the Christian experience, and something we should learn to endure (2 Corinthians 6:5).
- Christians are supposed to fast (2 Corinthians 6:5).
- The way to be approved as a worker of God is to pursue knowledge (2 Corinthians 6:6).
- The way we can endure persecution and hardship is through the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 6:6).
- Righteousness protects us. Paul calls it armor on the right hand and the left hand (2 Corinthians 6:7).
- The Christian life consists of both honor and dishonor (2 Corinthians 6:8). The world may hate and dishonor us,

but we're honored in God's sight. One day we'll be glorified by Him.

- Since we're not of this world, we may not be known in this life. However, God knows us. He calls us by name, and that's worth far more than worldly fame (2 Corinthians 6:9).
- God hasn't promised us wealth in this life. Even if we have nothing at all, in Christ we possess all things (2 Corinthians 6:10).
- Paul didn't teach pragmatism or compromise. Instead he taught strict separation from the world, and forbade the church from joining with the world (2 Corinthians 6:14). Since the church is light and the world is darkness, it's impossible for the church and the world to have fellowship.
- Since Christ doesn't have fellowship with the devil, the children of God must not have fellowship with the children of the devil (2 Corinthians 6:15).
- Christians are the temple of God (2 Corinthians 6:16).
- God commands Christians to separate from evil, not join forces with it (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- If we want God to receive us then we must separate ourselves from all evil (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- The sons and daughters of God are those who have separated themselves from the world (2 Corinthians 6:18).
- It's possible to experience comfort in the midst of persecution, and joy in the midst of trials (2 Corinthians 7:4).

- There were times when Paul was afraid (2 Corinthians 7:5).
- The reason Paul rejoiced over his previous letter wasn't because it made the church sorry, but because it motivated them to repent (2 Corinthians 7:9).
- Not all sorrow is good. There's some sorrow that leads only to death (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Those who love the church will raise an issue when there's a problem, and will rebuke the church so they experience godly sorrow over it (2 Corinthians 7:12). Hiding issues in the church isn't loving at all. Instead it indicates a lack of care and a lack of love.
- There are times when our spirit needs to be refreshed (2 Corinthians 7:13).
- It's not a sin to boast about churches (2 Corinthians 7:14).
- God doesn't promise that all churches will be rich. Some churches are very poor (2 Corinthians 8:2).
- It's possible to give generously while being very poor (2 Corinthians 8:2).
- When Paul saw the generosity of the Macedonian church, it motivated him to see the Corinthians develop that same spirit of generosity (2 Corinthians 8:6-7). The Corinthian church abounded in many things, but not in generosity.
- It's not enough for a church to have one or two good qualities. Churches need to fully develop and abound in all good qualities (2 Corinthians 8:7).
- The way to prove the sincerity of your love is by

generosity (2 Corinthians 8:8). This means the sincerity of a person's love is proven through his actions, not his words.

- Before Jesus came into this world, He was rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- When Jesus came into this world, He became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- Jesus chose to become poor so that we might be made rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- What matters to God is that we give whatever we have, even if that isn't very much (2 Corinthians 8:12).
- Equality is about helping other people through their time of need, when you're in a position to do so (2 Corinthians 8:14).
- Our love for others comes from God (2 Corinthians 8:16).
- It's not wrong to hold up a church as an example of how to behave (2 Corinthians 9:2).
- When Paul told the Corinthian church that they needed to sow bountifully if they wanted to reap bountifully, he said that in the context of giving to churches who were in need (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- Paul said that each person should give as he has purposed in his heart (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving must not be forced or done reluctantly! He also never taught that Christians are required to give a certain percentage of their income. Instead he commanded each person to give whatever he wanted to give. Paul specifically said that Christians must never give out of "necessity" (which completely goes against tithing). Unlike the old covenant

(which contained the law of tithing), the new covenant doesn't require us to give a certain percentage of our income.

- The important thing about giving is that it must be done willingly and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- God is able to make all grace abound toward us so we can perform every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- God doesn't want us to perform just some good works. Instead He wants us to abound to *every* good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- Paul taught the "all things" principle. He expected the church to be faithful in all things, sufficient in all things, and doing all things (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- God will never become evil. He will remain righteous for all of eternity (2 Corinthians 9:9).
- God cares about the poor (2 Corinthians 9:9).
- God is the one who controls the size of the harvest that we reap (2 Corinthians 9:10).
- Those who are genuinely saved will submit to the gospel and obey it (2 Corinthians 9:13).
- Paul didn't want to be bold with the Corinthian church when he visited them. He was hoping that since he was bold in his letters, he wouldn't have to be bold in person (2 Corinthians 10:2).
- Since the church is waging a spiritual war, it must use spiritual weapons. It must not use the weapons of this world (2 Corinthians 10:4).
- The way to make our thoughts obedient to Christ is by

using the spiritual weapons that God has given us (2 Corinthians 10:5).

- Christ commands us to be obedient in both our actions and our thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- The church must defend the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- The church must seek to fulfill all obedience. This means it must be obedient in *all* areas, not just some areas (2 Corinthians 10:6).
- Paul had a reputation for being a very bad public speaker (2 Corinthians 10:10).
- Churches should seek to increase their faith (2 Corinthians 10:15).
- The New Testament depicts the church as the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).
- The relationship between Christ and the church hasn't yet reached its fullest extent. The New Testament teaches that we're the *bride* of Christ, not the wife of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2). This is different from Israel in the Old Testament, which was called the wife of Jehovah (Jeremiah 3:20, 31-32; Jeremiah 3:8).
- Paul wasn't convinced that the Corinthian church had discernment (2 Corinthians 11:4).
- Some apostles had a higher rank than others. Paul spoke of the "very chiefest apostles" (2 Corinthians 11:5).
- The Corinthian church didn't take Paul's apostleship seriously (2 Corinthians 11:5).
- It's not wrong to defend yourself (2 Corinthians 11:5).

- One of the reasons the Corinthian church didn't take Paul seriously was because he was a poor public speaker (2 Corinthians 11:6).
- We must teach all things to the church. We're not at liberty to leave things out (2 Corinthians 11:6).
- The content of what Paul taught was far more important than his speaking ability (2 Corinthians 11:6). The Corinthian church believed that a person's public speaking ability was the most important thing, and Paul rebuked them for this.
- When Paul visited the wealthy Corinthian church, they didn't provide for him in any way. Instead his needs were met by the poor church of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 11:9).
- Paul said that he was going to continue to not accept any money from the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:9).
- Refusing to take money from a church is something to boast about (2 Corinthians 11:10).
- One of the reasons Paul didn't accept money from the Corinthian church was to keep others from finding an occasion to condemn him. He knew the church had opponents, and he wanted to make sure they weren't able to raise a complaint against him (2 Corinthians 11:12).
- The devil can disguise himself to appear as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).
- Just as the devil can disguise himself, his servants can as well. There are people who seem to be of God but who are actually of the devil (2 Corinthians 11:14).

- The reason Paul defended himself and talked about his qualifications was so that the Corinthian church would listen to what the genuine apostles had to say, and wouldn't listen to those who preached a false gospel (2 Corinthians 11:12-18).
- Paul defended himself when he was under attack. He didn't remain silent when false apostles bragged about their qualifications and tried to convince the churches to listen to them (2 Corinthians 11:21). This is because he didn't want the Corinthian church to be led away from the gospel.
- Paul felt it was very foolish for him to talk about himself (2 Corinthians 11:21). He only did it because the gospel was at stake.
- Paul believed there was a difference between being a Hebrew and an Israelite (2 Corinthians 11:22).
- The validity of Paul's apostleship, and the validity of his authority over the churches, can be seen in how much he labored and how much he was persecuted (2 Corinthians 11:23).
- On five separate occasions the Jews beat Paul with 39 stripes (2 Corinthians 11:24).
- Paul was shipwrecked three times (2 Corinthians 11:25).
- Those who condemn Paul and claim to be greater than him can't match his achievements or suffering (2 Corinthians 11:21-25).
- There were times when the apostles had no food (2 Corinthians 11:27).
- There were times when the apostles had nothing to drink



(2 Corinthians 11:27).

- There were times when the apostles had no clothing to wear (2 Corinthians 11:27).
- There are times when it's God's will for us to lack even the most basic necessities of life (2 Corinthians 11:27).
- Even though Paul suffered many terrible things, he still blessed God. He didn't believe that the terrible things he suffered were proof that God was cruel or unjust. Instead he accepted the persecution and continued to faithfully serve the Lord and praise Him (2 Corinthians 11:31).
- Paul escaped the city of Damascus by being let down the wall through a window in a basket (2 Corinthians 11:33). This means when the governor tried to arrest Paul, he didn't quietly submit to arrest. Instead he fled the city.
- It's not wrong to flee persecution (2 Corinthians 11:32-33).
- Paul didn't want to tell the Corinthian church about the great things he had done. He didn't want to talk about himself or glorify himself (2 Corinthians 12:1).
- Paul's claim to be an apostle was supported by both extraordinary divine revelations and extraordinary suffering (2 Corinthians 12:1). This means God has given us many solid reasons to believe Paul and take his letters seriously.
- Paul didn't tell the Corinthian church everything he had done. He had also healed people and raised the dead, but he didn't mention that. He also didn't list all the churches he had founded or the letters he had written. His purpose was to defend his apostleship, not make sure the church knew every great thing he had done.

- Paul was given his vision of Heaven 14 years before he wrote this letter (2 Corinthians 12:2). That means it happened early in his ministry.
- When Paul was given his vision of Heaven he couldn't tell if he visited Heaven bodily, or if it was an out-of-body experience (2 Corinthians 12:2).
- When Paul visited Heaven, he didn't immediately tell everyone about it or try to use the experience to make money. Instead he kept it a secret and referred to it with great reluctance. He also refused to give any details about what he saw (2 Corinthians 12:2). This is extremely different from the "Heaven tourism" books that are common today (which seem to be frauds).
- Paul is another person in the Bible who experienced Heaven but wasn't allowed to talk about it (2 Corinthians 12:2). There are a number of people in the Bible who died and were resurrected, but none of them were permitted to say anything about Heaven. The only people who were allowed to speak of what they saw in Heaven were Isaiah and John.
- Paul was so humble about his vision of Heaven that he kept referring to himself in the third person. He truly didn't want to talk about it or glorify himself (2 Corinthians 12:3). This is quite different from the way some pastors act, who are eager to glorify themselves.
- God forbade Paul from telling other people what he experienced in Heaven. The details of what he heard were solely for Paul's benefit and couldn't be shared (2 Corinthians 12:4).
- Paul didn't want to boast about his greatness. Instead he wanted to boast about his infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:5).

This means he was more eager to talk about his struggles than his greatness.

- Paul was open about his weaknesses and struggles. He didn't pretend to be greater than he was (2 Corinthians 12:5).
- Those who seek to magnify themselves in the sight of others are fools (2 Corinthians 12:6).
- Paul didn't want other people to think more highly of him than he deserved (2 Corinthians 12:6).
- The devil can cause physical infirmities. Satan is able to inflict health problems on people and make them suffer for a long time (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- Although Paul's physical infirmity was from the devil, Paul believed it was ultimately from God for the purpose of keeping him humble (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- When Paul had a problem, he didn't pray about it just once. Instead he brought it to God repeatedly (2 Corinthians 12:8).
- God didn't grant all of the prayers of the apostles. There were times when He told them no (2 Corinthians 12:9). This means we shouldn't be surprised if He tells us no as well.
- God doesn't always grant healing (2 Corinthians 12:9). There are times when He allows us to suffer because it accomplishes His purposes.
- There are times when God deliberately chooses to make us weak (2 Corinthians 12:9). This is because power of Christ can rest on us when we're weak.

- Paul valued the power of Christ more than he valued his health (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- We don't become strong by believing in ourselves. Instead we're strong when God gives us the power of Christ, and He does that when we're weak and suffering and in need (2 Corinthians 12:10).
- It's not wrong for us to defend ourselves against false accusations (2 Corinthians 12:11).
- Paul was planning on visiting the Corinthian church for a third time (2 Corinthians 12:14). This means he had visited them twice before writing this letter.
- Paul was honest with the Corinthian church. He told the church that he loved them, but they didn't love him in return (2 Corinthians 12:15). He didn't pretend that things were better than they actually were, and he didn't ignore their problems.
- The Corinthian church was dysfunctional (2 Corinthians 12:20).
- It's true there was a church in the New Testament that didn't take Paul seriously. However, it wasn't a godly church that was a pillar of righteousness. No, it turns out that the church which refused to take Paul's apostleship seriously was highly dysfunctional. It was full of strife, hatred, and conceit (2 Corinthians 12:20).
- It's a terrible thing for a church to have people in their midst who are living in unrepentant sin (2 Corinthians 12:21).
- Since Paul's next visit to the Corinthians would be his third, he considered that to be his third witness. He

believed that three visits from the same person counted as three witnesses (under the principle that a thing is established by the testimony of "two or three witnesses") (2 Corinthians 13:1).

- A person living in sin in the church was such a serious matter that Paul said he would personally remove those people from the church when he visited them (2 Corinthians 13:2).
- The Corinthian church demanded proof that Christ was speaking through Paul (2 Corinthians 13:2-3). He said the proof would be this: when he arrived at the church he would remove from the congregation all those who were living in unrepentant sin.
- Christ was weak when He was crucified (2 Corinthians 13:4).
- Christ lives by the power of God (2 Corinthians 13:4).
- We must examine ourselves to make sure we're saved (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- If we're saved then Jesus is within us (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- Paul said he was glad when he was weak (2 Corinthians 13:5). He was strongest when he was weak because that's when the power of Christ was with him.
- Paul wanted to perfect the Corinthian church. He didn't want to destroy it (2 Corinthians 13:9-10).
- The goal of Christians should be perfection. We must not be content with anything less (2 Corinthians 13:11).
- It's not good for Christians to disagree. When Christians aren't of one mind in the truth, it's a sign of a serious

problem (2 Corinthians 13:11).

- Christians should live in peace with one another (2 Corinthians 13:11).
- If we're perfect, and are of one mind, and live in peace, then God will be with us (2 Corinthians 13:11).