

## A Tendency to Measure

It's very \_\_\_\_\_ to measure ability and success.

We do it so often, it's unconscious.

We measure ourselves and others, we (can) measure \_\_\_\_\_.

Measurements that lack our expectation,  
*feed disappointments* in our hearts.

*The heart is more deceitful than all else  
and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?  
Jeremiah 17:9 NASB*

### A Little Background & Explanation:

Paul was given visions & revelations by God  
as a proof of his apostleship.

A Vison - is seen    A Revelation - is seen or perceived  
"Third Heaven" was a Hebrew way to speak of  
God's \_\_\_\_\_. (the Hidden Paradise)

**Paul's Difficulty:** If he doesn't tell, no one \_\_\_\_\_.  
If he tells, is it boasting?    Could it make him proud?

**Paul's Thorn:** Was sent as a message from Satan.  
It was not specifically named or described.  
(It's different for each of us.)

**"Thorn"** a common description. Nu. 33:55 Ez. 28:24 Hosea 2:6  
Paul's prayers to remove it weren't granted, because  
it had a \_\_\_\_\_.

The "Thorns of Life" aren't to stop us in  
Discouragement.

They are purposefully \_\_\_\_\_ to help us  
Discover that **God's** \_\_\_\_\_  
**is enough!**

## Lessons from Thorns

**L** \_\_\_\_\_ [Weaknesses]

When we **can't do** what we used to do or what we'd like to do,  
we say, Come On God! // God asks, "Do you \_\_\_\_\_ me?"

*I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all  
my fears. <sup>5</sup> Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never  
covered with shame. <sup>6</sup> This poor man called, and the LORD heard  
him; He saved him out of all his troubles. Ps 34:4-6*

More Promises: Mt. 7:7-8 2 Cor. 9:8 Philippians 4:19

**S** \_\_\_\_\_ [Hardships ~ Difficulties]

When we **wrestle** with things we can't conquer and  
we say, ... Come On God! // God says, that \_\_\_\_\_  
is only through me.

*The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear and He  
delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the  
one who takes refuge in Him. // The righteous person may have  
many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;  
Psalm 34:7-8 & 19*

More Promises: Deut. 20:4 Psalm 18:17 145:18-19

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ [Insults ~ Persecution]

When we **agonize** through suffering and/or sorrow  
saying, Come On God! // God says, I know \_\_\_\_\_.  
Because of me, you have hope.

*The LORD is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are  
crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but  
the LORD delivers them from them all; He protects all their bones,  
not one of them will be broken. Psalm 34:19-20*

More Promises: Isaiah 53:5 61:1 Mt. 11:28

**Optional Readings:** *God Satisfies, He can Fulfill our Desires*  
With God we do not lack. ... We have Enough! (14 Chapters)

*Psalm 20<sup>4</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 34<sup>9</sup> 37<sup>4</sup> 90<sup>14</sup> 91<sup>16</sup> 103<sup>5-6</sup> 107<sup>9</sup>  
145<sup>16-19</sup> 147<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 33<sup>15-16</sup> 58<sup>11</sup> Philippians 4<sup>19</sup>*