

A THORN TO KEEP HIM FROM BEING EXALTED

(and to keep him humble)

II Corinthians 12.7

lest I should be exalted above measure

KJV interpretation = “keep others from exalting me”

- * Virtually all other translations consistently translated “keep me from becoming conceited.”
- I believe the KJV got it right.
- Unfortunately, I believe today’s pastors exalt Paul to an unreasonable level. I have heard all of the following from godly pastors. Nothing in Scripture supports them.
 - * “the greatest missionary that ever lived”
 - * “the greatest Christian in the Bible”
 - * “the greatest Christian who ever lived”

thorn in the flesh. T.B.D.S. [*The Bible Doesn't Say*], but Paul seems to leave several hints [below].

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Purpose of his thorn: YOUR OPINION, PLEASE

- keep him from being elevated by others
- keep him from exalting himself
 - * in my opinion, many Bible expositors treat Paul like Buddha, i.e. **no believer in 2000 years has been able to reach** Paul’s level of: godliness, personal evangelism, biblical understanding, perfection as a missionary, or eminence. This extrapolation is not supported in Scripture.
- constant reminder grace is sufficient for him & us
- suffering is not purposeless pain

Possibilities: YOUR OPINION, PLEASE

- Eye disease or needed glasses, Gal 6.11, wrote in large letters
 - * needed amanuenses, Silas [*Corinthians?*], Sopater?, Tertius [*Romans*], Timothy Gal 4.13,15
 - * “you would have plucked out your own eyes”
 - * nearsighted, drooling eyes, crossed-eyes
 - Paul’s sight was damaged, blinded, by light on road to Damascus. Acts 9.9
 - Speech impediment, 10.10 *exouthenemenos, εξουτηνεμενος*, worthless “contemptible speech—see II Cor 10.10,11”
 - Lack of eloquence, 11.6
 - Epilepsy, limp, hunchback, rickets, polio, etc.
- 12.8 Paul felt that with a swish of His hand God could remove the thorn, and pleaded passionately for 3 [extended?] stints of his life, so that he would be able to minister more effectively. God’s answer = No.
n.b. Paul did not ask to be “cured” but that it would depart from me.
- 12.9 My grace is sufficient for thee, arkei, αρκει, satisfies [pleasure, contentment]

As an example of exalting Paul to an unreasonable platform, have you ever [once] heard that Paul committed any of these 3 sins. Probably not.

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[Circumcised Timothy & 3 Other Sins](#)

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