

**First Mount Zion Baptist Church**

*Wednesday Bible Study*

**September 11, 2024**

**2 Corinthians 12**

**Presenter: Rev. Kathy Russell 11 a.m.**

**Presenter: Rev. Chris Peterson 7:30 p.m.**

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**Background:** subsequent to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians false teachers had infiltrated the church and stirred up the people tempting them to disregard Paul's teaching of God's truth they claimed he was out of touch with reality proud unimpressive in appearance and speech an unqualified as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the time Paul wrote second Corinthians the atmosphere in the congregation had dramatically changed believers realized that they had fallen short of the mark and allowed sin and deception to creep into their church. This letter also highlights some fascinating personal details regarding the apostle Paul he catalogs the extent of his sufferings for Christ 2nd Corinthians Chapter 11 verses 22 through 33 gives a famous description of his mysterious visit to the 3rd heaven in chapter 12 verses one through 6 and offers an account of his thorn in the flesh from which the apostle learned to say when I am weak then I am strong. This chapter continues refuting or disproving the attacks of false apostles, who were working to lead the Corinthians away from Christ. These deceivers may have captivated their audience with tales of wild supernatural experiences. In the previous chapter, Paul wrote that he would foolishly boast about his service to Christ—his intent being sarcasm, to mock the self-promotion of those men, those false apostles and teachers. Instead of claiming to be better than the false apostles, he mostly just described his suffering for Christ.

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**Verses 1-4**

1. Who is “the man” Paul wrote about in verses 1-4?

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**Verse 3**

2. Where/what is the third heaven? What does this remind you of in scriptures in the Bible? In which book is it found?

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**Verses 5-6**

3. Why didn't Paul boast about himself?

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**Verses 8-10**

4. What was the Lord’s answer to Paul’s prayer to remove the thorn from his side? What is the meaning of “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” in verse 9?

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**Verse 10**

5. In this verse, Paul said, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” How can one be strong in his/her weakness?

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**Verse 11**

6. Who were the “eminent apostles” (“super apostles” in some translations) and why were they called that?

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**Application:** Your weakness can become strength. If you want to drive the pride from your character, embrace the hardships and struggles that God allows into your life, so that God can use you in a mighty way in the Ministry. The Lord's loving kindness is more than sufficient to help you when you're at your weakest. Because it is in that moment of complete poverty where pride cannot survive that you're genuinely able to receive God's grace and see that everything good in your life comes from his hand.