

# “GLOVES OF GRACE FOR HANDLING THORNS IN THE FLESH”

*(2 Corinthians 12:1-10)*

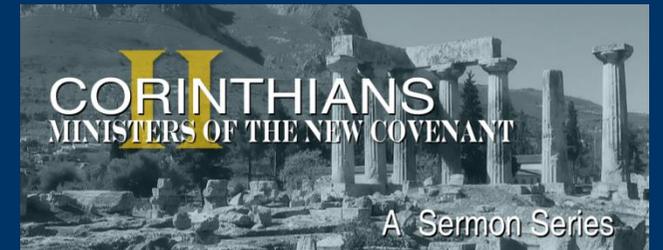
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*Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 24*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

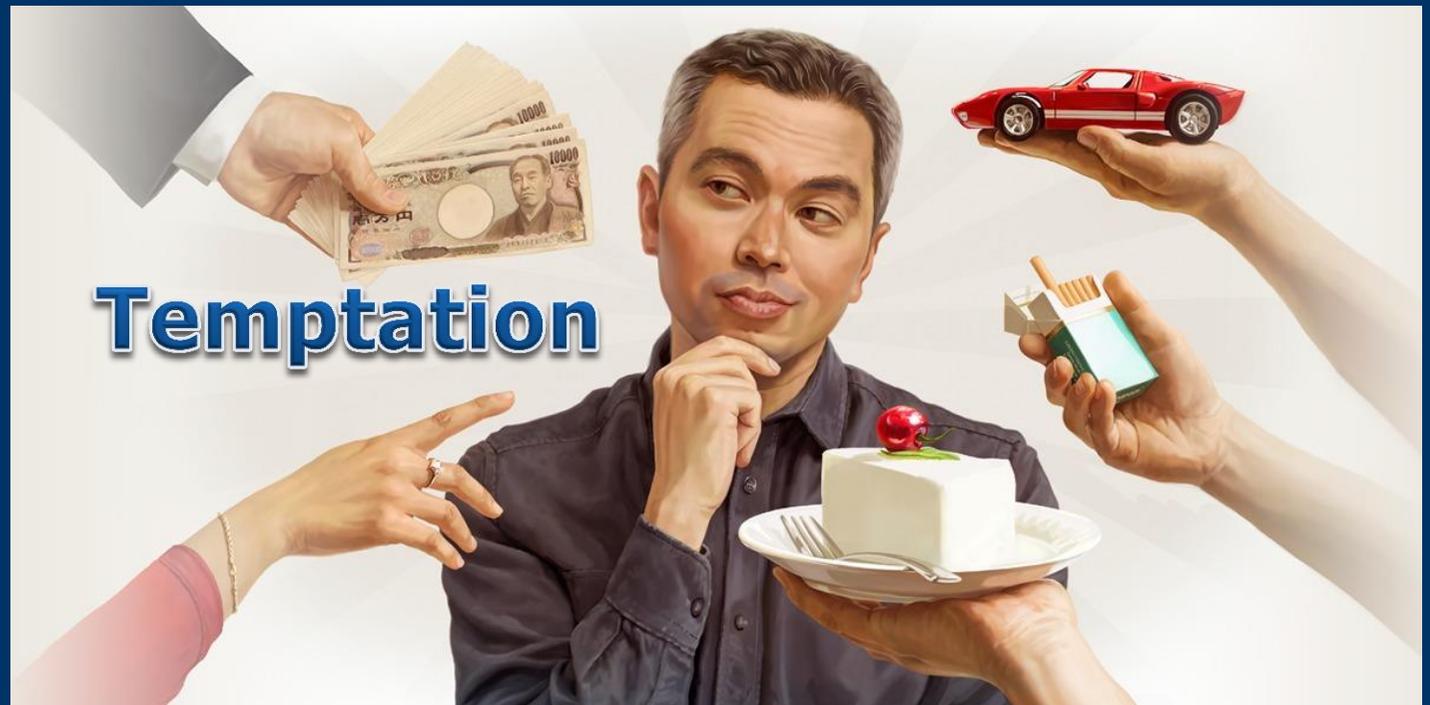
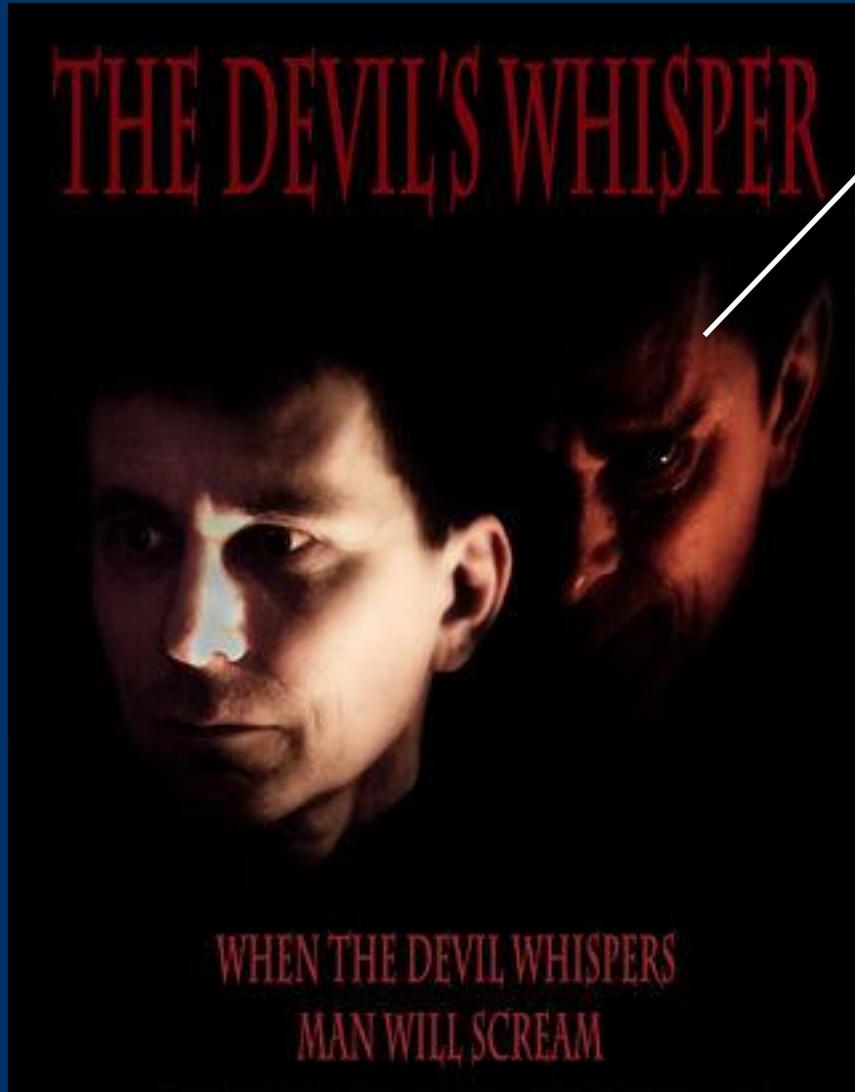
*Date: May 20, 2018*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:

“Your brother has just been made Bishop of Alexandria.”



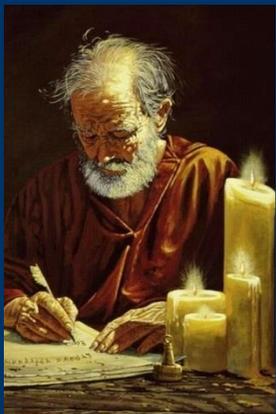
# I. TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO APPEAR ADEQUATE

*Three types of people whose natural gift make it look like they've already got a head start.*

*A) The Highly Intelligent*

*B) The Greatly Gifted*

*C) The Deeply Religious*



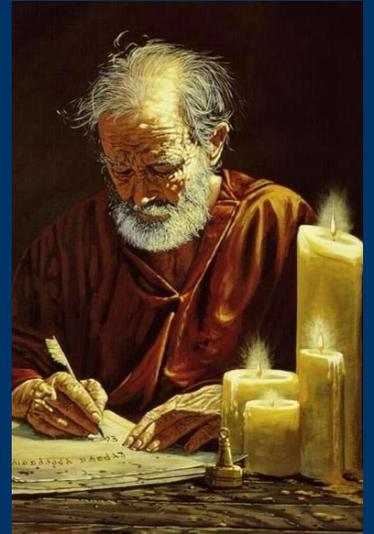
***1 Cor 4:7** For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

## II. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: PAUL

*Paul adds a brief explanation of his view of how a Christian should boast.*

***2 Cor 12:1a** I must go on boasting.  
Although there is nothing to be gained,*

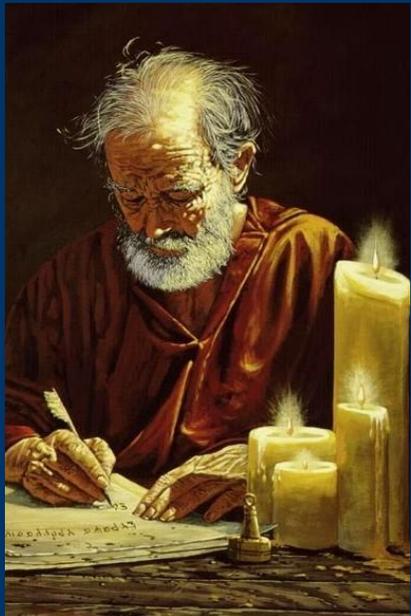
**L**ions don't have to roar;  
**W**arriors don't have to boast or brag.  
- Alain Burrese



## II. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: PAUL

*Paul adds a postscript to his resume, revealing a credential he's never revealed before.*

### ***A) A Man of Incomparable Spiritual Ecstasy***



***2 Cor 12:1b*** *I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows — <sup>4</sup> was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.*

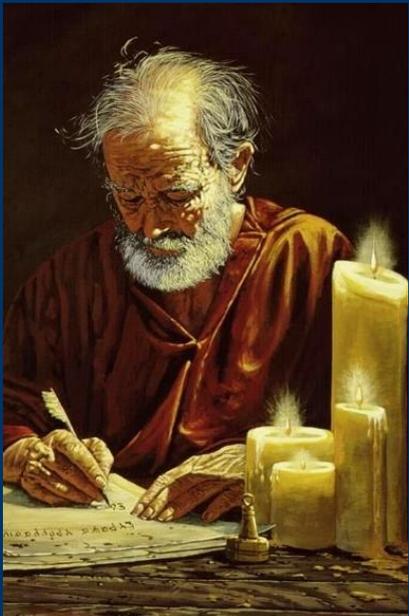
## II. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: PAUL

*Paul adds a postscript to his resume, revealing a credential he's never revealed before.*

### ***B) A Man of Uncommon Authenticity***

***2 Cor 12:5*** *I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.*

***6*** *Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say,*



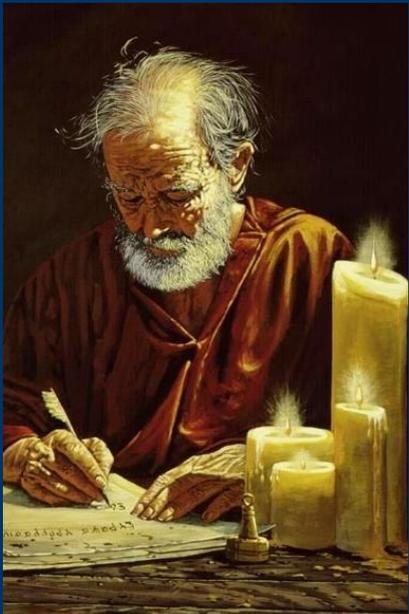
## II. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: PAUL

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### ***C) A Man of Inescapable Pain***

***2 Cor 12:7*** *Or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*

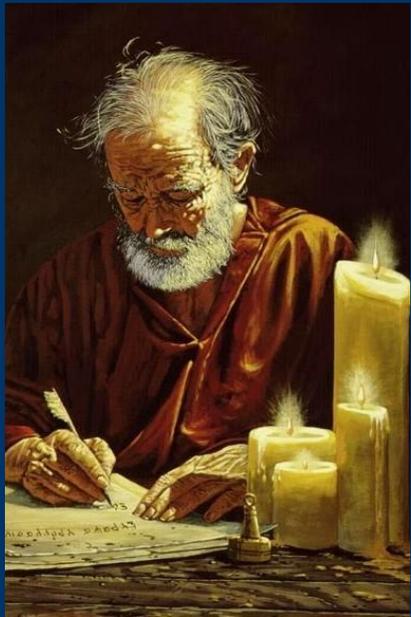
***8*** *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.*



## II. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: PAUL

*Paul adds a postscript to his resume, revealing a credential he's never revealed before.*

### *D) A Man of Paradoxical Power*



***2 Cor 12:9a** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

***2 Cor 12:9b** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

***10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

# CONCLUSION:



From Paul's life, we too, can learn to handle these thorns with the gloves of grace by:



**A) *Learning to look beyond.***

**B) *Learning to look within.***



# CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Name some tactics the devil used to cause us to stumble? How does the feeling of inadequacy make us uncomfortable?*
- 2. Explain how the above gifts caused us to become proud and arrogant.*
- 3. Share some life example of people wish such gift and how they fall from grace.*
- 4. How does the example of Paul help us to be a good shepherd and teacher?*



*Scripture References:*

*2 Corinthians 12:1-10*