



**Fruit of the Spirit— Discipleship**  
**A Series that will bring Fruit to your Life**  
**~ Troy DeFeo**

**Bible Study Seven:**

**“ Joy in Weakness ”**

**JOY:**

**Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

**When you think of God’s power, what comes to mind?**

---

**Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 -- read**

**Paul feels forced to “boast” to defend himself against his opponents. How would you summarize his boasting (vs. 1-6)**

---

**Evidently (Paul’s) opponents had criticized his claim to be an apostle saying that he had no experienced visions and revelations. Paul puts the record straight.**

**Why do you think he refers to “a man in Christ” (vs 2) when speaking about his own experience of being “caught up to the third heaven”?**

---

**In spite of his supernatural experiences, Paul wanted people to judge him on his character, not his experiences (v. 6) Why do people’s actions and words reveal more about them than their “credentials”?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why was Paul given a thorn in the flesh? (vs. 7)** \_\_\_\_\_

**How can our experiences—- spiritual and otherwise—- lead us to become conceited?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why did God refuse to remove Paul’s thorn in spite of his repeated prayers (v 8-9)**

---

**We usually want God to demonstrate his power by removing our weaknesses. Why is his power more perfectly revealed in the midst of our weaknesses?**

---

**When have you experienced God’s power and sufficient grace in the midst of a painful weakness? \_\_\_\_\_**



**What different kinds of experiences qualify as “thorns” in our lives. (vs 10)**

**Sins of any kind would not qualify as thorns, since God is more than willing to remove these from our lives. Hardship that results from sin can be dealt with only through confession and repentance. Thorns in the flesh are not just simple inconveniences.**

**What thorn is currently causing you pain? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What have you learned in these passages that will help you to rejoice in that weakness? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Simon Peter (The Rock) experiences many weakness and failures and turned them into strengths because of God’s power. Look at his story:**

**Luke 5:1-11, 22:31, \_\_\_\_\_**

**John 13:1-9, 31-38, \_\_\_\_\_**

**Luke 22:54-62, \_\_\_\_\_**

**John 21:15-19 \_\_\_\_\_**