



2 Corinthians 12:7-10



Char Kuay Teow!

2 CORINTHIANS



Peranakan!

2 CORINTHIANS



Bible!

2 CORINTHIANS



Power!

2 CORINTHIANS

“Many people have left PMC!”

2 CORINTHIANS



Summary of context

- 1. Paul started the church in Corinth**
- 2. Influential people caused disunity**
- 3. Paul wrote 1 Cor to rebuke them**
- 4. Paul visited church but visit didn't turn out well**
- 5. Retreat to Ephesus, wrote 2 Cor**
- 6. Thankful for repentance**
- 7. Problem of "super-apostles"!**



THE “SUPER APOSTLES”

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Verse 7

***Huperaipomai* - which can
be translated as “to exalt oneself”**

While the third heaven experience was given to Paul for God’s mysterious purposes; a thorn in the flesh was given to prevent his heart from turning such an experience into pride.

***kolaphizein*: violent striking, beatings**

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Thorn in the flesh?

1. Could be **violent beatings** from someone or a group of people / or constant torment due to physical ailment (2 Cor 10:10 – “...bodily presence is weak”).
2. Given Paul’s use of “kolaphizein” and not “peipasmos”, it is **not likely** to be a temptation or sinful desire which Paul was particularly prone to.
3. Contextually, the **effect** of the thorn is more important than the **nature** of the thorn.
4. While the thorn in the flesh seeks to obstruct Paul’s ministry of the Gospel; it was transformed by God to **magnify His power, grace and glory through such a weakness.**

Verses 8-10:

- (1) The possibility for God to answer the prayers of one of His most faithful servants in a negative manner
- (2) Paul's amazing response to God's refusal to take the thorn away: that of content / delight in the many challenges that God has allowed so that His power be made perfect.

Application 1: Who do we REALLY want to follow? Paul like ministers? Or the superapostles?

Application 2: Some thorns do not go away, what then shall we do? Persevere and be content in our weakness. Rely on God's power and not our own.

