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"Giving a Message of Hope & Healing to a Broken World"

The Evangelistic Ministry of Rick J Lairsey





## 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.
- 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
- 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I













will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 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.

I like the fact that Paul never really defines "the thorn in the flesh". I have heard people try to define it. But, He just calls it "a thorn" (2 Cor. 12:7). You know why I believe he did not label it? Because all of us have "a thorn" that we wish would go away. We all have something that we want God to heal. You have cried about it. You have prayed about it. You have begged. You have fasted. What do you do when you ask God to do something about it and He seems to be silent?

Well, really, He is not being silent. Paul takes this bad situation that could have destroyed many people's faith and says, "I have made a decision. I have asked God three times to deal with this, and three times God sent back the same message. Since I cannot get it my way, I will just boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ rests on me, and for His sake, when I am weak, then I am strong. His grace is sufficient for me. I will hold up and not fold up!"

Faith is trusting God with or without answers. Sometimes, He will answer you. He will give you the clearest answer to your question. Then at other times, He will be incredibly silent.

Faith says, "Whether or not He answers me, I still believe that He is God, and nothing will shake me from my confidence in Him" If He does not show up, the real issue is not ... Will God do it?

The real issue is will you hold up or will you fold up?

What amazes me about Paul is that he had this "thorn" for many years. BUT as far as the Bible says, he only prayed about-it three times. If that had been me, I would have been whining about it every day of my life. He only prayed about it three times because he said, "Well, God, I am going to put it in Your hands."

We need to learn how to suffer because sooner or later, our theology is not going to measure up to the Bible. It takes more faith to trust God when He does not answer. Can you believe in the superior judgment of God even when you do not have a clue what He is doing?

See this REVELATION! Three Things!

I believe that God is God.

I believe that He can heal instantly, and He can heal progressively.

I have come to the realization that sometimes Be does not heal everybody.





If He chooses not to fix your situation, one of three things is going on: LET ME SPEAK PROPHETICALLY!

God is allowing it. HE ALLOWS TESTING AND TRIALS! The prime example of this is Joseph and the 13 terrible, tragic years filled with hate, rejection, slavery, falsely accused of rape, thrown into a dungeon, and forgotten about. But at the end of the day Genesis 50:20 says it all, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about as it is today, to save many people alive."

God is going to reverse it. WHEN GOD IS READY TO MOVE, HE CAN REVERSE THE

**MOST IRREVERSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES.** God is a God of reversals. He can change seemingly irreversible circumstances in a moment:

- **Economic Reversal:** The Scripture says the inheritance of the wicked will be laid for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22).
- Political Reversal: You may think your boss, the powers that be or those unscrupulous co-workers who are plotting against you have the final say because they have the name, the money, and the position. But they don't have anything unless God gives it to them, and He can take it away (Daniel 4). Nobody has the final say over a Christian living by the Spirit in the will of God.
- Legal Reversal: No edict or court ruling against you can stand when God decides to reverse it. He may allow it to be issued for His purposes, because His kingdom plan is bigger than one person.
- **Emotional Reversal:** When God reverses your circumstances, He can wipe away tears and turn sadness into joy.
- **Spiritual Reversal:** God may put you in a bad situation so that He can give you a supernatural deliverance that will cause other people to want to attach to the God who delivered you.

God is going to sanctify it and use it for His glory. Look at what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

The little word "TO" ... represents, the valleys, the trials, the temptations, the struggles, the hurts, the pain, and misunderstandings we all experience between the moments of joy and glory.

That is why Paul said "Therefore, I will glory in my infirmities --- in my tribulations." He will not put more on me than I am able to bear (1 Cor. 10:13). He will not allow me to go-through such a severe trial that I cannot get up. "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again." (Proverbs 24:16)

So, I am going to glory in my tribulations. I am going to say, "God is God and He knows the path that I take. He knows me by name. He is working purity in this. He is cleansing me. He is purifying me. He is sanctifying me:'



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Do you trust HIM even when you do not understand a thing He is doing in your life?

Do you believe that "all things are working together"? (Rom. 8:28).

If He lets you go through something, He is conforming you to the image of Christ.

Everything is for your own good. Real faith can say, "I sowed the seed and one time I got a hundred-fold blessing! Another time --- I am still waiting. I am still sowing!

So, whatever you are going through, the issue is: Do you have faith that will trust God with or without answers?

WILL YOU HOLD UP OR WILL YOU FOLD UP?

Rick J Lairsey National Evangelist, Church of God (Cleveland, TN) Founder, Flashpoint Ministries, Inc.



## **April 2024 Highlights**

68 SAVED/RESTORED!

12 Holy Ghost Baptisms

- Great Weekend of Ministry in Los Angeles at the Third Pentecost Conference. Ministered @ Word For the World Church in LA and participated in the dedication of the Azusa Street Prayer Tower. Powerful move of God.
- Attended **RISE CONFERENCE** in Myrtle Beach, SC for some networking and growth opportunities.





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- Traveled to Toronto, Canada and ministered @ Humberlea Worship Center. The altars were full with so many experiencing a powerful move of God
- Ministered at the Adult Teen Challenge in Seaford, Delaware. These men and women are experiencing the restorative power of God manifested in their lives.
- Revival @ Berryton COG in Summerville, GA. 6 were saved/restored. God spoke powerfully and prophetically and I believe that God is preparing this church for it's best days.

Several Testimonies of Healing and Breakthrough!

## TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!





I Have the following dates available:

June 2 August 11

OPEN FOR Single REVIVAL NIGHTS for MIDWEEK Services

Booking Fall Dates with Limited Open Dates



















## JOIN WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH PRAYER AND SUPPORT!

I am looking for ministry partners and will come along side through prayer and through giving to support the vision and mission of fulfilling the Great Commission.

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Click the "DONATE" button on the home page at www.flashpointministriesnow.org to give.

The time is short and there is much to be done. Thank you in advance for all you do!

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