

## PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP DEMONSTRATION (II Corinthians 12:11-13)

1. What are the signs of an apostle? (II Corinthians 12:12) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul says in II Corinthians 12:13, LB, The only thing I didn't do for you, that I do everywhere else in all other Churches, was to become a burden to you---I didn't ask you to give me food to eat and a place to stay. Please forgive me of this wrong!

## PAUL PLANS A THIRD VISIT (II Corinthians 12:14-21)

1. (a) What is Paul afraid he will find among the Corinthian Church when he arrives there? (II Corinthians 12:20,21) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Are these things still in operation in God's Churches today? \_\_\_\_\_

(c) What do you think it will take for all of the flesh acts and sins to be taken out of operation in the Churches? \_\_\_\_\_

## TWELFTH STUDY

### PAUL'S BOASTING CONTINUES

### PAUL'S HIGH SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE (II Corinthians 12:1-6)

Paul continues his "foolishness of boasting" (II Corinthians 11:17) as he turns from his sufferings for Christ's sake to his high spiritual experience.

1. What does Paul call his high spiritual experience in II Corinthians 12:1? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul was converted 26 years previous to this. He had just shared in II Corinthians 11:32,33, his narrow escape through a window, down by the wall in a basket, as recorded in Acts 9:23-25. Now he describes for us the best he can what happened to him approximately 14 years prior to this.

2. Describe this experience in II Corinthians 12:2-4.

3. In what does Paul say he will glory? (II Corinthians 12:5) \_\_\_\_\_

He will glory in his infirmities, meaning his weaknesses, so that he will not be considered a fool: because he would not desire that any should think of him above what they see him to be or hear of him (II Corinthians 12:6). So he will stop his glorying.

## THORN IN THE FLESH (II Corinthians 12:7-10)

There are reoccurring times in a minister's life when God has accomplished much through him (or her). And as people begin to exalt and 'lift them up' they can go in one of two directions:

- (1) They can lift up all glory unto the Lord, and humble themselves before Him, or
- (2) They can believe this publicity and be exalted above measure: which usually leads to ruin.

I like what Corrie Ten Boom said when asked, "How do you handle all this praise and attention from those who follow your life story, of how you went to the Nazi prison camp for saving the lives of many Jews during the Holocaust?" She humbly said, each night when she arrived home from giving her testimony or being honored, she would think of a bunch of balloons above her head, and would push them on up to the Lord as if they were the praises and adoration she had received for the day.

The only way we can handle this kind of attention, is to pass on all the glory to the Lord. Or else we could end up as many do: on the unspiritual garbage heap: as Kenneth Hagin so wisely put it.

1. (a) In II Corinthians 12:7, Paul said he was given special help from an unusual source so that he would not be lifted up above measure. What did he call it? \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) What did Paul call this thorn in his flesh? (II Corinthians 12:7) \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) Did Paul ask God to remove this thorn in the flesh? (II Corinthians 12:8) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) How many times did Paul ask God that this might depart from him? (Same verse) \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) What answer did the Lord give Paul? (II Corinthians 12:9) \_\_\_\_\_

- (d) From II Corinthians 12:9, For what reason did Paul give that he would rather glory in his infirmities? \_\_\_\_\_

- (e) How do you think this thorn in the flesh manifested itself? \_\_\_\_\_

3. (a) In what did Paul say he took pleasure? (II Corinthians 12:10) \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) Why? \_\_\_\_\_