

Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “Up From The Ashes”
Week of November 12, 2017

Read 2 Corinthians 11:30 - 12:1-10

- Paul had lots of incredible experiences. Why would he only brag about his weaknesses? (11:30, 12:5)
- We don't know what Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was which tormented him (verse 7). He doesn't say. Why did he describe it as a messenger from Satan?
- Do you believe this was literally from Satan or was this a metaphor? If it was literally from Satan, why would God allow Satan to torment His children with "thorns"?
- Do you have now, or have you in the past had a "thorn" which has tormented you? How did you react to it?
- How did Paul respond to his "thorn" (verse 8)? What did he do? Do you suppose Paul was thinking about this when he wrote Philippians 4:6-7?
- How did God respond to Paul's prayer (verse 9)? Has God ever told you "no," or maybe was just totally silent, when you desperately needed help from God? How do you usually react when God tells you "no" or is silent?
- Paul learned that when he was "weak" he was able to better experience God's power. Have you ever experienced a heightened sense of God's power and presence when you went through a very difficult time?
- In the face of the tormenting "thorn" of 2 Cor. 12, Paul seems to have experienced the promised "good" of Romans 8:28. Have you had a time when God brought about good in spite of the presence of trouble and disappointment?