

2 Corinthians 12

Chapter 12 of 13 · 21 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Paul's Visions and Revelations

¹ It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

⁴ How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

⁵ Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

⁶ For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Concern for the Corinthian Church

11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not your's, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

16 But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.

17 Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?

18 I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

Final Warnings

19 Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Apostle — ἀπόστολος (Apostolos)

Apostle, sent one

The Greek **apostolos** (ἀπόστολος) means apostle or sent one—an authorized messenger. The twelve apostles were chosen by Christ and empowered as His witnesses, laying the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Grace — χάρις (Charis)

Grace, favor

The Greek **charis** (χάρις) denotes unmerited divine favor—God's kindness toward the undeserving. Salvation is 'by grace through faith' (Ephesians 2:8), not human merit.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Messiah — Χριστός (Christos)

Christ, Anointed One

The Greek **Christos** (Χριστός) translates 'Messiah'—the Anointed One. Peter confessed 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:16), recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Repent — μετανοέω (Metanoeo)

To change one's mind, repent

The Greek **metanoeo** (μετανοέω) means to change one's mind or purpose—a complete transformation of thinking. John the Baptist and Jesus both began their ministries with 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 12:1 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 8:10; 12:7; John 16:7; 1 Corinthians 10:23; Galatians 1:12; 2:2; 1 John 5:20. **References Lord:** Acts 18:9; 23:11. **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 12:11

2 Corinthians 12:2

Parallel theme: 1 Kings 18:12; Isaiah 57:15; Acts 22:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 4:2. **References God:** 2 Corinthians 11:11; 1 Kings 8:27; Ezekiel 11:24; Revelation 12:5

2 Corinthians 12:4 **Parallel theme:** Luke 23:43; Revelation 2:7

2 Corinthians 12:5 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 2:3. **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 11:30

2 Corinthians 12:6

Parallel theme: 2 Corinthians 11:16; 11:31. **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 12:11

2 Corinthians 12:7 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 32:25; 32:31; Numbers 33:55; Deuteronomy 8:14; Judges 2:3; Job 2:7; Daniel 5:20; 1 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 4:13; 1 Timothy 3:6

2 Corinthians 12:8 **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 5:7. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 15:11

2 Corinthians 12:9 **References Christ:** 2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:13. **Glory:** 2 Corinthians 12:5; Ephesians 3:16. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 43:2; 1 Corinthians 2:5; 10:13. **Grace:** 1 Corinthians 15:10; Hebrews 4:16

2 Corinthians 12:10

References Christ: 2 Corinthians 12:9. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 4:17; 6:4; 13:4; Luke 6:22; John 15:21; Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3; Ephesians 6:10; James 1:2

2 Corinthians 12:11 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 11:1; 11:5

2 Corinthians 12:12

Parallel theme: 2 Corinthians 4:2; 11:4; 11:6; John 4:48; 1 Corinthians 14:18

2 Corinthians 12:13 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 12:14; 1 Corinthians 9:6; 9:12

2 Corinthians 12:14 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:15; Proverbs 13:22; 19:14; Ezekiel 34:2; Acts 20:33; 1 Corinthians 10:24; 10:33; 1 Thessalonians 2:11

2 Corinthians 12:15 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 1:6; 2:3; 7:3; 12:9; 12:14; Philippians 2:17; Colossians 1:24; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; 2 Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 13:17

2 Corinthians 12:18 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 4:12

2 Corinthians 12:19

References Christ: Romans 9:1. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 10:8; 1 Corinthians 14:26. **Love:** 1 Corinthians 10:14

2 Corinthians 12:20

Parallel theme: 2 Corinthians 12:21; Proverbs 16:28; Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 1:11; Galatians 5:15; 1 Peter 2:1; Jude 1:16

2 Corinthians 12:21 **Sin:** 2 Corinthians 13:2. **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 5:1; Galatians 5:19; Colossians 3:5

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