

# 2 Corinthians 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

---

**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.**

Paul defends his apostolic authority against false teachers. This verse contributes to Paul's overall purpose in 2 Corinthians: Defend apostolic authority and encourage reconciliation and giving. The key themes of apostolic ministry, suffering and comfort, new covenant are evident in this passage.

## Historical Context

---

**Historical Setting:** 2 Corinthians was written around 56 CE from Macedonia to Corinthian church after a painful visit.

**Occasion:** Defending ministry against false apostles. The Greco-Roman world valued rhetoric, philosophy, and social status. Paul's message of a crucified Messiah and salvation by grace challenged these values.

First-century believers lived in a pluralistic, pagan society with many parallels to today. Social structures, economic pressures, and religious confusion all

challenged Christian witness. Paul's instructions addressed both timeless theological truths and specific cultural situations.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does 2 Corinthians 12:7 deepen my understanding of the gospel and God's character?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call me to make this week?
3. How does this passage point to Christ and His redemptive work?

## Interlinear Text

---

καὶ	τῇ	ὑπερβολῇ	τῶν	ἀποκαλύψεων	ἵνα	μὴ	
And	G3588	through the abundance	G3588	of the revelations	to	G3361	
G2532		G5236		G602	G2443		
ὑπεραίρωμαι	ἐδόθη	μοι	σκόλοψ	τῇ			
I should be exalted above measure	there was given	to me	a thorn	G3588			
G5229	G1325	G3427	G4647				
σαρκί	ἄγγελος	Σατᾶν,	ἵνα	με	κολαφίζῃ	ἵνα	μὴ
in the flesh	the messenger	of Satan	to	me	buffet	to	G3361
G4561	G32	G4566	G2443	G3165	G2852	G2443	
ὑπεραίρωμαι							
I should be exalted above measure							
G5229							

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Numbers 33:55** (Parallel theme): But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

**Judges 2:3** (Parallel theme): Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

**1 Corinthians 5:5** (Parallel theme): To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

**Daniel 5:20** (Parallel theme): But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

**Galatians 4:13** (Parallel theme): Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

**Job 2:7** (Parallel theme): So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

**1 Timothy 3:6** (Parallel theme): Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

**Genesis 32:25** (Parallel theme): And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

**Genesis 32:31** (Parallel theme): And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

**Deuteronomy 8:14** (Parallel theme): Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;