



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Studies in 2 Corinthians

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Out of Body Experiences 2 Corinthians 12-13



**Authentic Christianity
is fleshed out in our
personal experiences**

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

One of every ten human beings are said to have experienced an “OBE”, or an “out of body experience”. This is the sensation that one is floating outside their body. These are often associated with near death experiences. Whether genuine or not, this perception does exist. In this week’s study the apostle Paul speaks of his real “out of body experience”, but also reports about some rejection of his credibility by the church at Corinth. This was so inexplicable that it must have seemed as if he were another person. Paul counters this attack on his credibility by first giving concrete evidence that he is a true apostle. He shares about his experience fourteen years earlier of being transported to heaven and hearing God’s words. In spite of this he would not allow it to exalt him

in anyone’s eyes. Furthermore, God had allowed a messenger from Satan to be a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble. This was fine with him, for when he was weak, he was actually strong in Christ. However, he was not inferior to the other apostles, having exhibited the signs of a true apostle, and all he had done “wrong” was to not take money from the Corinthians. He justified this, though, because, as their spiritual parent, he did not need money from them. Next, Paul called for them to conduct a critical examination of their faith. He feared he would find that they had slipped back into their old, contentious ways and that he would have to come in discipline again. For their sakes he was willing to do this because he represented Christ, who, although once

weak, was now strong in victory. So, he told them to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith and he prayed that they would not be wrong. Finally, he concluded with some comforting encouragement. He wanted to use his authority to build them up, and help them be complete, comforted, like-minded, at peace, and mindful of the presence of the God of love. He encouraged them to greet each other with a holy kiss, and prayed that the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with them all. This Trinitarian prayer would enable them to live “out of the body” and in the Spirit.

Study Questions for 2 Corinthians 12-13

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read II Cor 12:1-6. What did Paul feel about boasting (v1)? Why? What did he reveal (v1, 2, 3-4) and when was this (v2)? Who was this “man” and how did it relate to his “boast” (v5-6)?</p>	
<p>2. In 12:7-10 how does Paul characterize these revelations and their potential effect (v7)? What did God do to counter this (v7, 9) and how did Paul react (v8, 9-10)? Why (v10)? Apply.</p>	
<p>3. According to 12:11-13 why had Paul boasted and what should have occurred instead (v11)? Describe what showed that he was a true apostle (v12) and how he had demonstrated his care for them (v13).</p>	

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2 Corinthians 12-13 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Based on 12:14-18 what did Paul intend and how (v14)? What was his reason (v14, 15)? What issue did he defend again (v16, 17, 18) and why was this so important to Paul?

5. Using on 12:19-21 what mindset does Paul correct (v19) and what fear had led him to do this (v20)? What result would this cause (v21)? How is Paul a good example for us?

6. According to 13:1-4 what was Paul planning (v1-2) and how would he do it (v1)? What misunderstanding about himself does he correct and why (v3-4)?

7. Read 13:5-6. What does Paul tell them to do (v5)? Explain this. What is the truth about any of us (v5) and what truth did Paul want them to realize about him (v6)?

8. Using 13:7-10 what did Paul hope for them (v7, 9) and why (v7, 9, 10)? What was not his motive (v7) and what truth was this based on (v8)?

9. In 13:11-13 what instructions did Paul give the Corinthians (v11, 12) and why was each especially applicable to them? How did he encourage them (v13)?

10. Looking at 13:14 what did Paul pray for them? What does this prayer reveal about the nature of God and what is the specific role of each member of the Godhead?

11 Review 2 Cor 12-13. What concrete evidence does Paul provide of his authenticity as an apostle (v12:1-6, 12)? What effect had this had on him (v7-10)? What critical examination should each of us make (13:5) and what comforting encouragement should we draw from his closing words (v13:11-14)?

Scripture to Remember

“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*Dead Men's Bones (Not a Fan, Week 5)*

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open by asking if anyone has ever known someone like Bill, who lives only by the rules. What was that like?
2. Reflect on the video. What scriptures did Bill quote and what was wrong with the way he used them? What do you think was going on with him really?
3. Look at Matt 23:1-12. What does Jesus warn his disciples about? Why? Read aloud the “woes” Jesus pronounces on them in 23:15-32. What is Jesus so upset?
4. Discuss if you think it is okay for a follower of Jesus to be angry at self-righteous people. Follow up with why you think people “settle” for religion.
5. Talk about what is at the core of Christianity—rules, traditions, a relationship with Jesus, or something else. What would you say is your most prominent feeling as you try to follow Jesus?
6. Share with one another how you are trying to deepen your relationship with Jesus, not just in a time set aside, but as you go through the day. How can we be more like Eric, and less like Bill?
7. Close in prayer for each person to take that decisive step to follow Jesus *today*.