

West Valley Church of God
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the assurance that he needed. 'My grace is sufficient for you. My strength is made perfect in weakness. "

2 Cor 12:9b, 10 (9b) 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.** (Acts 14:5; Acts 14:19; Acts 17:113; Acts 23:27; Acts 28:17)

~~~John Brown

**Editor's Note:** In addition to the above, consider the "thorn" as not just the "messenger of Satan to buffet him" in outside persecutions, but as a personal weakness (either physical or spiritual) of Paul, since the weaknesses of "others" acting via evil influence, would not have required God's "grace" (as undeserved pardon) to be given to Paul for "the others" sins. In 2Co:12:9 Paul is referring to his own infirmities, not just that of others.  
**2Co:12:9: 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.

Paul further refers to other "infirmities" in different scripture:

**Ro:7:14:** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

**Ro:7:15:** For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

**Ro:7:16:** If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

**Ro:7:17:** Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

**Ro:7:18:** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

**Ro:7:19:** For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

**Ro:7:20:** Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

**Ro:7:21:** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

**Ro:7:22:** For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

**Ro:7:23:** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Ro:7:24:** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

**Ro:7:25:** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The Same Greek word "infirmities" is used to describe the sins of the human high priest, and the people, which required atoning offerings.

## Editor's Corner

• Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome **at any time**. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:  
**TheVineEditor@aol.com** -  
*Subject Line:* Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

**NOTICE...** Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor .

# The Vine

"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

September 2017

West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."

Submissions: [TheVineEditor@aol.com](mailto:TheVineEditor@aol.com)

We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge  
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325

Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - [www.westvalleywgc.org](http://www.westvalleywgc.org)

## Really, What Was Paul's Thorn in the Flesh?

2 Corinthians 12:7 and blessed I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the (1) flesh, the (2) messenger of Satan to buffet me, thus I should be exalted above measure.

nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God

(2) **G4566** Thayer definition:

1) adversary (one who opposes another in purpose or act), the name given to

1 a) the Prince of evil spirits, the inveterate adversary of God and Christ

1a1) he incites apostasy from God and to sin

1a2) circumventing men by his wiles

1a3) the worshipers of idols are said to be under his control

1a4) by his demons he is able to take possession of men [and make them adversaries] and inflict them with diseases

1a5) by God's assistance he is overcome

1a6) on Christ's return from heaven he will be bound with chains for a thousand years but when the thousand years are finished he will walk the earth in great power, but shortly after will be given over to eternal punishment.



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(1) **G4561**

Thayer definition;

2 c2) the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin

2c3) the physical nature of man as subject to suffering

4) the flesh, denotes mere human nature, their earthly

## Upcoming Events

• Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.



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(I have shown only the applicable definitions, for saving space)

Acts 9:23 and after that many days were fulfilled, *the Jews took counsel to kill him:*

Acts 13:45 *but when the Jews saw the multitude, they were filled with envy, and speak against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*

Acts 13:50 *but the Jews stirred up to devout and honorable women, and the chief men of the city, and raise persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.*



Acts 14:2 *but the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.*

Acts 14:19 *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

Acts 18:12 *And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,*

Acts 21:27 *And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,*

Acts 23:12 *And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.*

Acts 23:27 *This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.*

Acts 24:5 *For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:*

Acts 25:7 *And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.*

Acts 25:24 *And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude if the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer.*

Acts 26:21 *For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.*

From the foregoing scriptures it is abundantly dear *what the thorn in the flesh was that tormented Paul all his days as an apostle to the Gentiles.* Wherever he went the *Judaizers* were inciting riots against him with the Jews, the Gentiles and the rulers. *We can only imagine the frustration, the impotency, maybe even the anger he must have felt being met at every turn by the hostility of these enemies of God.*

Three times he asked God to deliver him from this impossible task he had been given. When he had been "driven" to this point, God gave him

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## A Tribute To Joan

In 1988 at the age of 32, after having been single longer than I would have liked and after years of attending "The singles experience in Pasadena" which occurred annually, known among bachelors as an event where people don't really meet someone, is where I broke the rule and met the love of my life. It was August 14, 1988 by the college gym. I met her friend Lori first who then introduced me to Joan. Joan had sworn off dating and considered this but a formality. The next evening, at the dance I danced with Joan and her eyes sparkled at me and I became compelled to dance a lot with Joan. On Joan's way home to Simi Valley she remarked to



Joan and Gary Glasford

Lori, "I could marry that guy and it would work." After a year and a half of back and forth visits to Simi Valley dating, Joan moved to Pasadena, roomed with my coworker Patty Curry, got a job at Pasadena Optometry and quickly (because of her spiritual character and work ethic) was raised to the position of Office Manager. We were married May 6, 1990 in the lower gardens of Ambassador College on the hottest day in 100 years. We celebrated 27 wonderful years of marriage. In August of 2013 Joan transitioned from the Optometry firm to working with horses, many volunteer hours including Mach 1, a program dealing with horses as therapy for handicapped children. After acquiring her

horse, Maverick, a Kiger Mustang, she also did a course at the Monty Roberts Ranch (the original horse whisperer) near Solvang. She volunteered to demonstrate Mav's training and the history of Mustangs to her friend Patty's art students who would do paintings of him. She also spent many hours riding. I was happy in the last few years of her life that she could fulfill her dream.

In June of 2015, Joan was diagnosed with a stage 4 Glioblastoma brain tumor. With all the medical treatments employed her life expectancy was one and a half years. Joan beat the odds and went two. It was those last bonus months that were so special including

one last Feast trip to Maine and an anniversary trip in May. In Joan's last days, the blessed RN, Susan Thompson, stayed and helped me through the hardest trial of my life. There simply are no words to express what that meant to me. Joan now has fought a good fight, finished her course, and kept the faith. For her is laid up a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give her at that day (2 Tim. 4:7-8). On the morning of July 15th while I was by her side she took her last breath. After a lifetime of spiritual growth she observed her final rest on the Sabbath day.



~~~ Gary Glasford