

# Paul's "Thorn" was Not a Sickness

Paul's "thorn in his flesh" was not a sickness, but a messenger (a demon) of Satan!

## Key biblical truths about Paul's thorn:

1. This "thorn" came from Satan because of the abundance of divine revelations Paul had received from God to advance the gospel.
2. The Bible explicitly states that the thorn is "a messenger of Satan" and not some sickness (2 Corinthians 12:7).
3. Paul asked the Lord to remove this "thorn of persecution" and the Lord told Paul His grace was sufficient (i.e., we are not redeemed from persecution).
4. The word "infirmity" used in Paul's thorn-related passage refers to inadequacy/weakness and not sickness.
5. Paul's thorn situation has been misused by Christians (and Satan) to justify submission to sickness.
6. Other thorn-related passages in the Bible equally pertain to people groups causing problems/persecution (and not sicknesses).

## 2 Corinthians 12:7

“ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, **a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me**, to keep me from becoming conceited.

Numbers 33:55 | Joshua 23:13 | Judges 2:3



All other places in the Bible that refers to "thorns in your side/flesh" (or "thorns in your eyes") refers to people groups causing problems or persecution, which is similar to the context of Paul's thorn.

## 2 Timothy 3:12

“ Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

