

I WILL NOT
CAUSE
PAIN WITHOUT
ALLOWING
SOMETHING NEW
TO BE BORN,
SAYS THE LORD.
ISAIAH 66 9

Turning Our Pains into Praises

II Cor 12:7-10

**WILL NOT
CAUSE
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SOMETHING NEW
TO BE BORN,
SAYS THE LORD.
ISAIAH 66 9**

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,
to give unto them beauty for ashes,
the oil of joy for mourning,

A photograph of several white flowers, possibly cherry blossoms, with green leaves, set against a light blue background. The flowers are arranged in a cluster, with some in the foreground and others slightly behind. The overall aesthetic is clean and bright.

**GOD TURNS
— BROKENNESS —
INTO BEAUTY.**

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
that they might be called trees of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,
to give unto them beauty for ashes,
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God Promises an Exchange

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the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
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Isaiah 61:3



a THORN
in the FLESH

THORN

Paul's "*thorn in the flesh*" has had a Lot of Interpretations

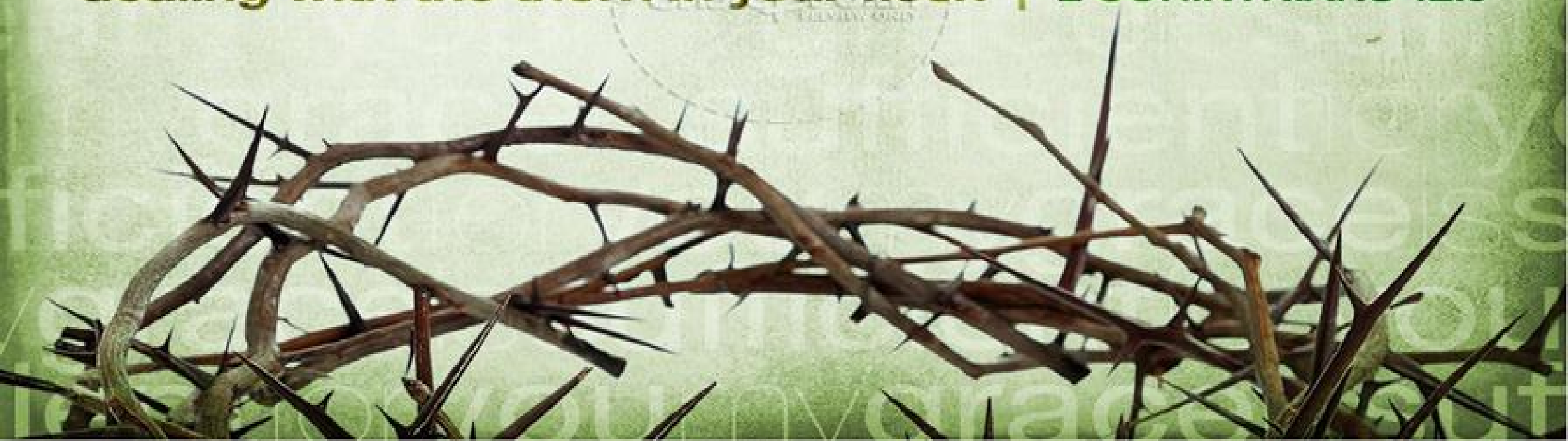
"Skolop" = a Pointed Thing.

- Something
 - of a Bodily Annoyance/ Disability.
 - Pain that Bothers us....
 - ...Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, Spiritually
- Paul Prayed that His "Thorn" Be Taken Out.
- But God Seemed Responded...

"Let the Pain Remain, Paul, it's Good for You".

sufficient **GRACE**

dealing with the thorn in your flesh | 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9



sufficient **GRACE**

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Raise a

- **Barrier**
- **Shield**
- **Defend**
- **Make More than Enough**

**THE PAIN THAT
YOU'VE BEEN FEELING,
CAN'T COMPARE TO
THE JOY THAT'S
COMING.**

Romans 8:18

THE PAIN THAT YOU'VE BEEN FEELING,

Paul learned God can turn our pains into praises”

- We too must allow God to transform our “thorns of pains” into “horns of praises”**
- There are a few Steps to Undertake...**
 - ...then we can open our lives and allow God to accomplish**
 - ...His work, transforming our pains into praises.**



Where was God?

Accept the Presence of Your Pains! (7)

..To keep me from becoming conceited, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

- Paul's pain was Not an Offer.
 - It was Given.
 - God Gave It.
 - And If God Gave It, It Must Be Good for Paul.
- We are a Comfort-Oriented and a Success-Driven Generation.
- We View the Presence of Pain / Problems to Be Unwanted, Let Alone Needed, Ingredients of Life.

Where was God?

**"A GEM CANNOT BE POLISHED WITHOUT
FRICTION, NOR A MAN PERFECTED WITHOUT
TRIALS."**

LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA

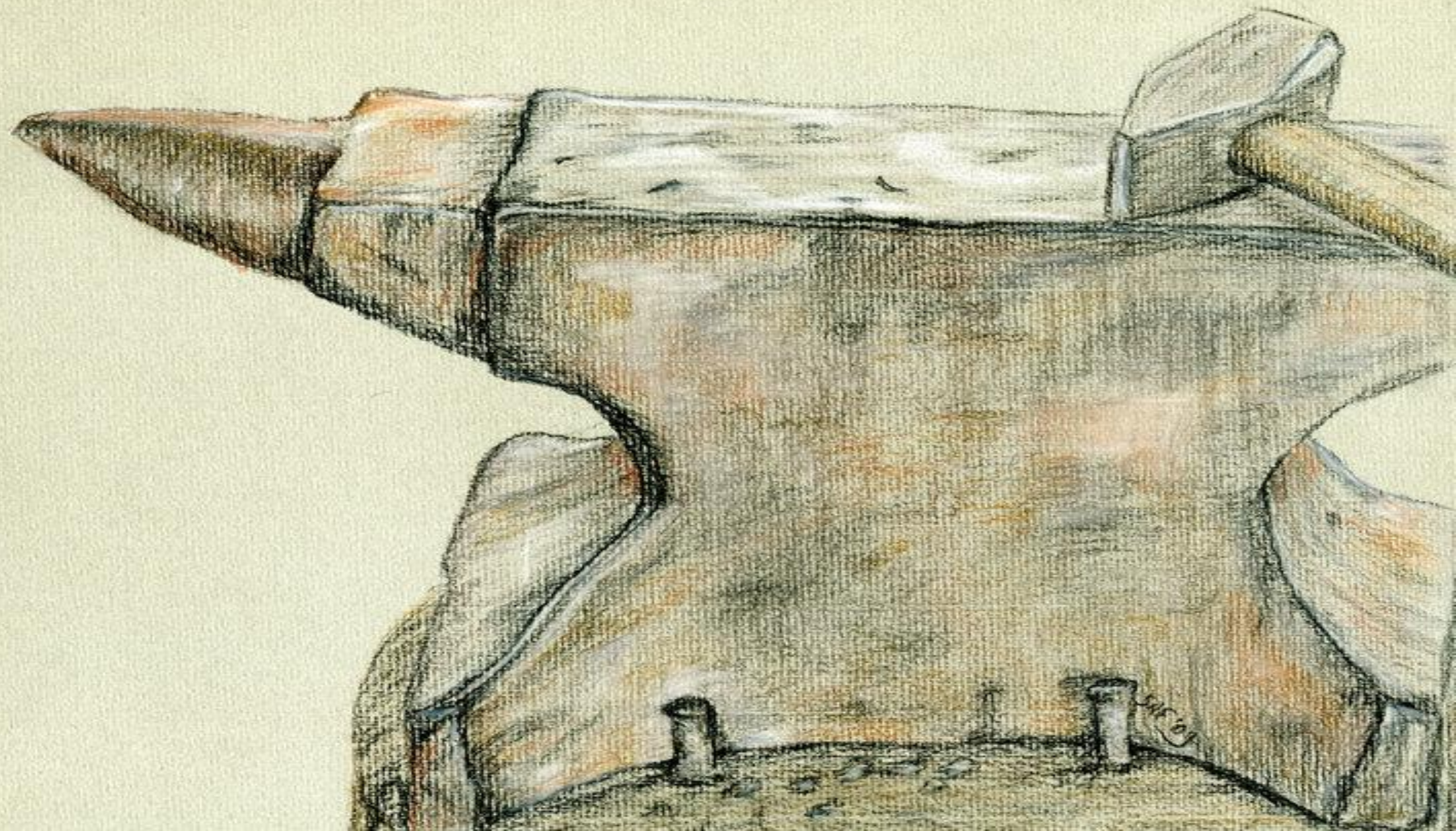


Accept the Presence of your Pains! (7)

❖ Pain Keeps Our Feet on the Ground.

“To keep me from becoming conceited”... (7)

- **Above Measure= “to exalt self above measure”.**
 - **Prevents Conceit ...Improper View -Focus Lost**
 - **Protects Us from Us ...Implosion**
 - **Pain Becomes**
 - **Eye-Opener.**
 - **God’s Tool to Protect us.**



Accept the Presence of your Pains! (7)

❖ Pain Keeps Our Faith On the Grind!


“A Messenger of Satan to Torment Me...”

Buffet= “torment” “strike with a fist”.

- It was meant to put Paul on the Anvil of God
- One good reason to simply accept our pains
...they sharpen our faith.

...that can conquer the most dreadful trials.

...Pain is God’s tool to perfect us.

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy, set against a warm, golden-brown background with a soft glow. The person's shadow is cast on the surface behind them.

S. Ferguson

If You
Don't Know
MY PAIN
You'll NEVER
UNDERSTAND
MY PRAISE

Appreciate the Essence of your Pains! (9)

... I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

- **How could a sane person appreciate pain?**

- **But Paul was saying,**

“boast all the more gladly about our weaknesses”

- **Infirmities= weakness-corruption- pain**

- **Focus Changed**

Appreciate the Essence of your Pains! (9)

❖ Pain is a Projection of Christians' Gladness.

"I will boast all the more gladly..."

- boast all the more"= "to rejoice in the highest degree".
- Our Rejoicing becomes an Invitation
- Pain is God's Workshop of Joy.

❖ Pain is a Platform for Christ's Greatness.

"...Christ's power may rest on me..."

- Rest= *build a tent- working within- giving help*
 - The Power of Christ is our fortress that is built-in
 - Pain is God's Workshop of Peace.

**“My grace is sufficient
for you**



**for my power is made perfect
in weakness.” 2 Cor 12:9**

Apply the Consequence of your Pains! (10)

... for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, ..insults, in hardships, in persecutions, difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- The best result of pain is a refined character.
- Life is 10% what Happens to you and 90% how we respond

❖ Our Pain Enhances our Contentment!

"I delight in weaknesses..."

- Delight=*"to be willing and to take pleasure"*.
 - Weak= *"impotency or unable to do anything"*
 - Strong=*"able to do everything"*.
- God uses pain as a Measure of our faith.
 - When stripped of Human Strength that we can be ... perfect
...useful and Mighty in His Strength

In Weakness: 2 Cor 12:9



GRACE