



STAY POSITIVE – WEEK 4 – WHEN ALL HOPE IS LOST

PREACHER - DAVE HASTINGS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE – II Corinthians 12:7-10

PRIMARY OUTCOME

- That we would become content with seasons of great personal difficulty, knowing the positives that God can bring from them.

THORNS

- Paul does not identify his thorn. Perhaps it was a medical condition, such as eyesight loss.
- There are untold numbers of thorns we experience in an imperfect world.

REALITIES OF THE THORN

- You will have thorns.
 - ✓ See I Peter 4:12
- It's okay to plead for the removal of the thorn.
 - ✓ Job did this in Job 29:4, 6.
- Sometimes God will say “no” without explanation.

KEY WORDS

- Pleading. (asking on steroids)
- Delighting. (contentment on steroids)

RESPONSES TO THE THORN

- The Sweetness of Dependency.
 - ✓ See II Corinthians 1:9
- The Power of Sustainability.
 - ✓ See II Corinthians 12:9
- The Calling of Ministry.
 - ✓ See II Corinthians 1:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ice Breaker – Can you think of any real-life situations where someone was “down for the count” and they made a remarkable comeback?
2. When in your life have you felt you had lost hope or was about to lose it?
3. How do you normally react when you feel you are in a no-win situation?
4. Describe a time when you asked God for something, and your “asking was on steroids”?
5. When your intense prayers are answered what does it do for your personal relationship with God? When they are not answered what does that make you think about God?
6. Describe a situation when you are “content on steroids”? How did you get to that point?
7. Have you ever been helpless and completely dependent upon another person? What did you think about that person?
8. Tell a story about someone who went through a tragic situation and you were amazed they made it through? How do you believe they sustained through it?
9. Think of experiences you have endured that now God could use you to minister to people who have been through the same thing.

