#### A Blast From The Past!

See if you can complete these sentences....

- This is going to hurt me more that it will...
- I'm doing this for your own good! One day you will...



2 Cor 12:1-10 Pg 822

# God Doesn't Always "Gift Us" The Way We Expect.

• Gifts of glory: Mountaintop 12:1-6

• Gifts of struggle: Valley 11:22-29

• Gift of the thorn: Persistent 12:7

1. A gift from God 2. For Paul's benefit

3. Physical 4. Constant pain

## Our Response Determines Whether Or Not We Benefit.

- Become bitter and angry
- Give up and just exist
- Buckle down and try harder
- Ask...but never Accept No
- Ask...and embrace God's No Answer

### Finding God's Strength In Our Weakness

- Hear Him: "He said"
- Trust Him "My grace is sufficient"
- Lean on Him: "My power made perfect in weakness"
- Ask Him to Overshadow: "Rest on me"
- Pay attention to his Promise:

"Promise not Explanation"

### **4 Critical Questions**

- 1. How are you responding to Gods' difficult work in your life?
- 2. When was the last time you really HEARD from Him?
- 3. Are you willing to do the hard work of learning from the tough times?
- 4. Have you asked Him to "rest" on you?