

DIAMONDS IN THE DARKNESS

2 Corinthians 12: 1-10

A Humbled Man (12:1-6)

- *“necessary”* – to defend his ministry and message
- *“third heaven”* – the presence of God
- *“paradise”* - Persian, the garden of the king

“I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses”

A Heavenly Provision (12:7)

How was Paul able to remain humble?

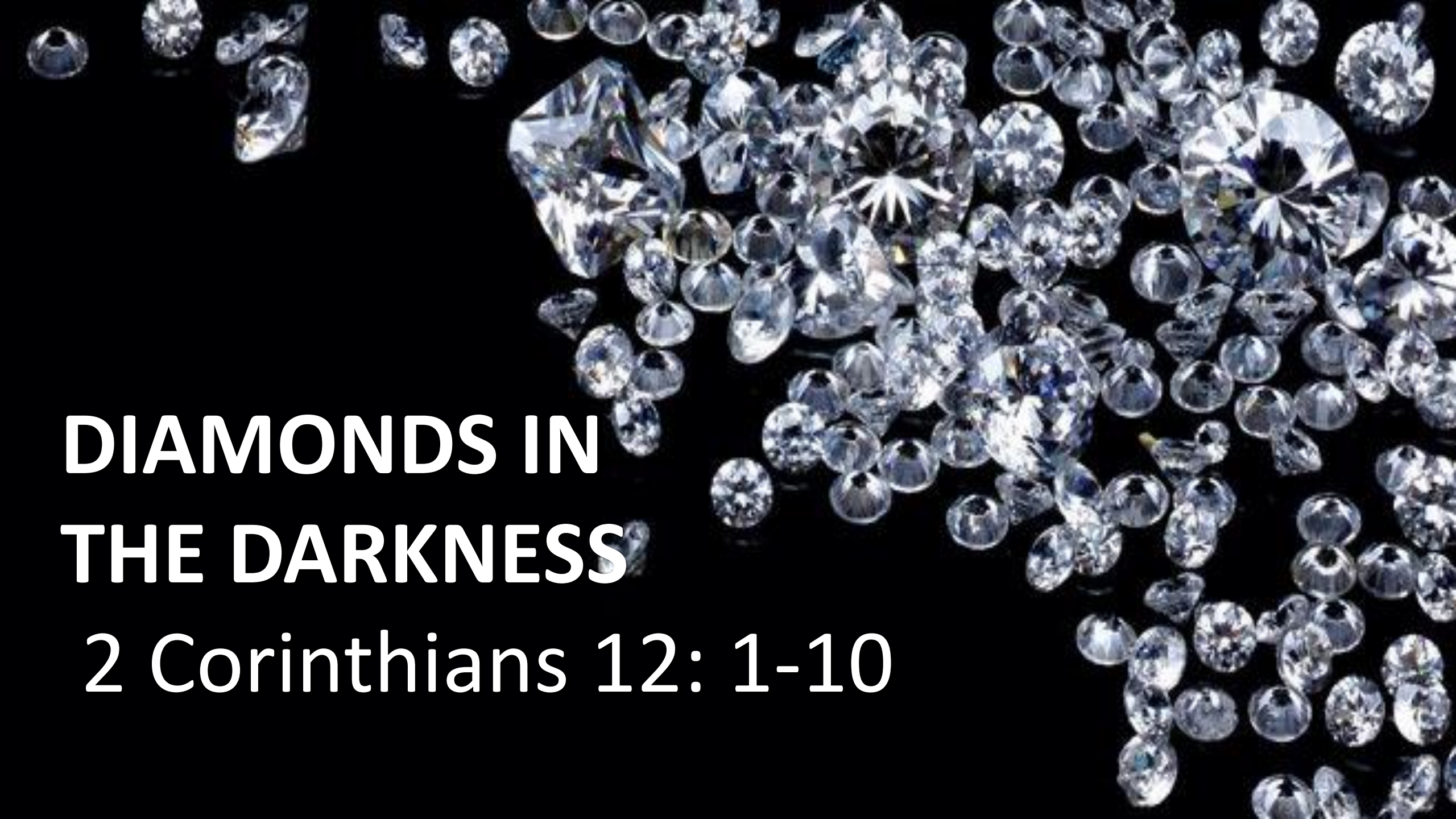
- *A vision from God*
- *A “thorn in the flesh” – a sharpened tent stake
“given” by God
“a messenger of Satan”*
- *“to keep me from exalting myself”*

A Sustaining Promise (12:8-9a)

- “*three times*” – many, many times
- “*My grace . . .*” - God’s unmerited favor
- “*My grace . . .*” – the grace of God, Himself
- “*My grace is . . .*” - available now
- “*My grace is sufficient . . .*” - more than enough
- “*My grace is sufficient for you*” - you!!!
- “*. . . for power is perfected in weakness*” –
human weakness with a heavenly purpose

A Victorious Proclamation (12:9b-10)

“Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with persecutions, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak then I am strong.”



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