

What was the Apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh to which he refers in his Second Letter to the Corinthians? There have been many conjectures as to its real nature, whether it was something spiritual, emotional, or physical.

Some have imagined it to be blasphemous thoughts, or remorse for his former life, especially his participation in the stoning of Stephen. Other commentators say the thorn refers to a person, such as Alexander the coppersmith, or other demon-possessed individuals that followed Paul closely to stir up trouble.

However, the more probable view is that it was some sort of physical affliction, which caused him this great annoyance. Not only is this clearly stated in his Epistle to the Galatians, there are hints of it within this very passage from Corinthians itself.

Just before the Apostle speaks of his thorn in the flesh, he said that he would refrain from boasting about the incredible nature of the revelations he'd received, lest people think of him more highly than he was.

Add to this the fact that God wrought extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even the handkerchiefs that had touched his body were brought to the sick and their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

Therefore, it becomes clear, if people were to see Paul performing such supernatural works, yet suffer from a physical infirmity himself, it would be obvious the power did not originate from him!