



EVERY THORN HAS ITS ROSE

2 Corinthians 11:30-12:10

by Eric Walker

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Embracing God's sovereignty in suffering...

1. Empowers you to “boast” in weakness (vv. 30-33)



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2. Encourages you toward humility (vv. 1-7)



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Embracing God's sovereignty in suffering...

1. Empowers you to “boast” in weakness (vv. 30-33)
2. Encourages you toward humility (vv. 1-7)
3. Enables you to have joy and contentment in difficulties (vv. 8-10)



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“What is beauty but something that is responded to with emotion? Courage, at least partly, is emotional. All the splendour of life. But if the best of life is, in fact, emotional, then one wanted the highest, purest emotions: and that meant joy. Joy was the highest. How did one find joy? In books it seemed to be found in love—a great love—though maybe for the saints there was joy in the love of God. He didn’t aspire to that though; he didn’t even believe in God. Certainly not! So, if he wanted heights of joy, he must have, if he could find it, a great love. But in the books again, great joy through love seemed always to go hand in hand with frightful pain. Still, he thought, looking out across the meadow, still, the joy would be worth the pain—if, indeed they went together. If there were a choice—and he suspected there was—a choice between, on the one hand, the heights *and* the depths and, on the other hand, some sort of safe, cautious middle way, he, for one, here and now chose the heights and the depths.”

- Sheldon Vanauken, *A Severe Mercy*



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