

CAMP VENTURE

Hey Pals,

Have you ever asked God to heal you or to take away a problem you were having? Sometimes, God's answer to a prayer comes right away. Sometimes, His answer comes along the way. And sometimes, God will not answer our prayers until we get to heaven, where all our weaknesses and worries will be gone forever!

That's how it was with Paul's prayer. In his letter, he told the Corinthians he prayed three times for God to take away his weakness, but nothing happened. The Bible does not say what Paul's weakness was; he called it "a thorn in his flesh." He was not talking about a real thorn but about a certain weakness. Sometimes, parts of our bodies are weak through sickness or injury or maybe something in our bodies or minds has not worked well since we were born. What are some physical weaknesses we might ask God to take away? (Campers respond.) God is so powerful that He even uses our weaknesses in building His kingdom.

Paul was not discouraged about his unanswered prayer, because he knew when we are weak, it is easier for others to know that only God is the one with the power. Paul said God put His light into our hearts.

Counselor opens mailbag and removes an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels. **God's light is like this cross and our hearts are like this breakable clay pot. If we were perfectly strong like a fancy treasure chest with a lock, others might only notice the treasure chest and the lock. But, when an old clay pot holds an amazing treasure like this cross, what do you notice most of all?** (Campers respond.) **In the same way, others will notice God's power in our weakness.**

No matter what your weakness is, the treasure in your heart is God's perfect light. That light points you and others to Jesus. Let others see that light and know Jesus is the powerful one, not us!

Believe and Be Light!
Your Pen Pal

