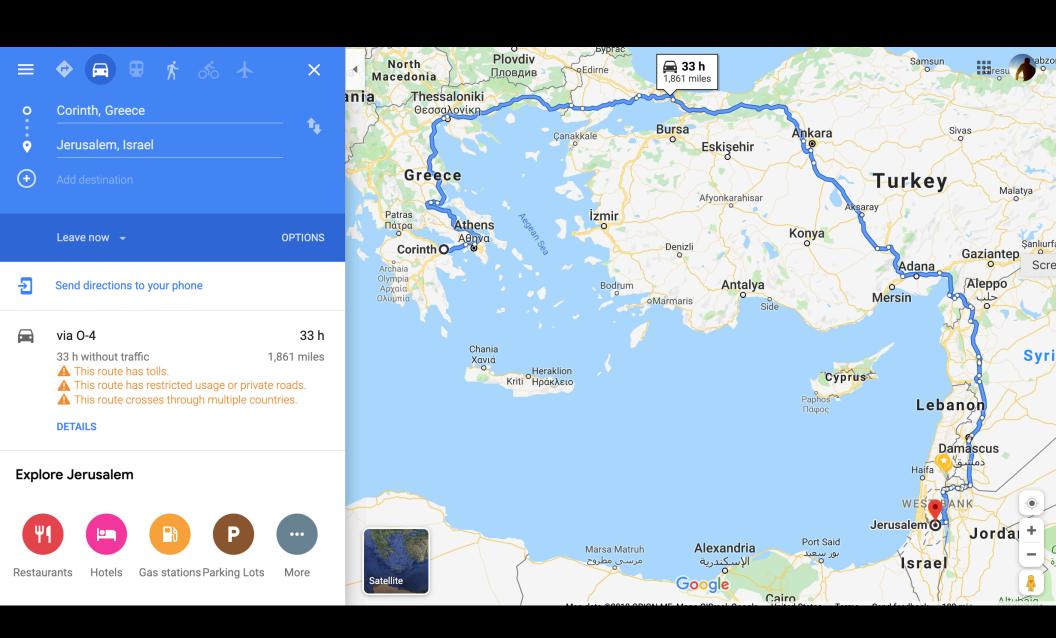




Distance To Jerusalem From Corinth is: 817 miles / 1314.83 km / 709.95 nautical miles



It is necessary to brag, not that it does any good. I'll move on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. 3-4 I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard unspeakable unspeakable words that were things no one is allowed to repeat.

I don't know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. 5 I'll brag about this man, but I won't brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses. 6 If I did want to brag, I wouldn't make a fool of myself because I'd tell the truth. I'm holding back from bragging so that no one will give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me.

⁷ I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I've received so that I wouldn't be conceited. It's a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn't be conceited. 8 I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. 9 He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness."

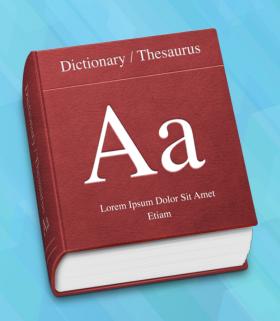
So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Greek: $\sigma \varkappa \acute{o} \lambda o \psi = \text{skolops}$

"thorn"

Definition:

"A sharp stake"

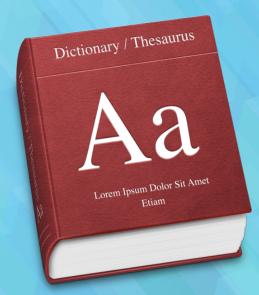


Greek: $\varkappa o \lambda \alpha \phi i \zeta \omega = kolaphiz\bar{o}$

"torment"

Definition:

"to strike with the fist, give one a blow with the fist"



1.

How do you react when God doesn't give you the answer you want to your urgent prayers?

Matthew 26:39&44

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

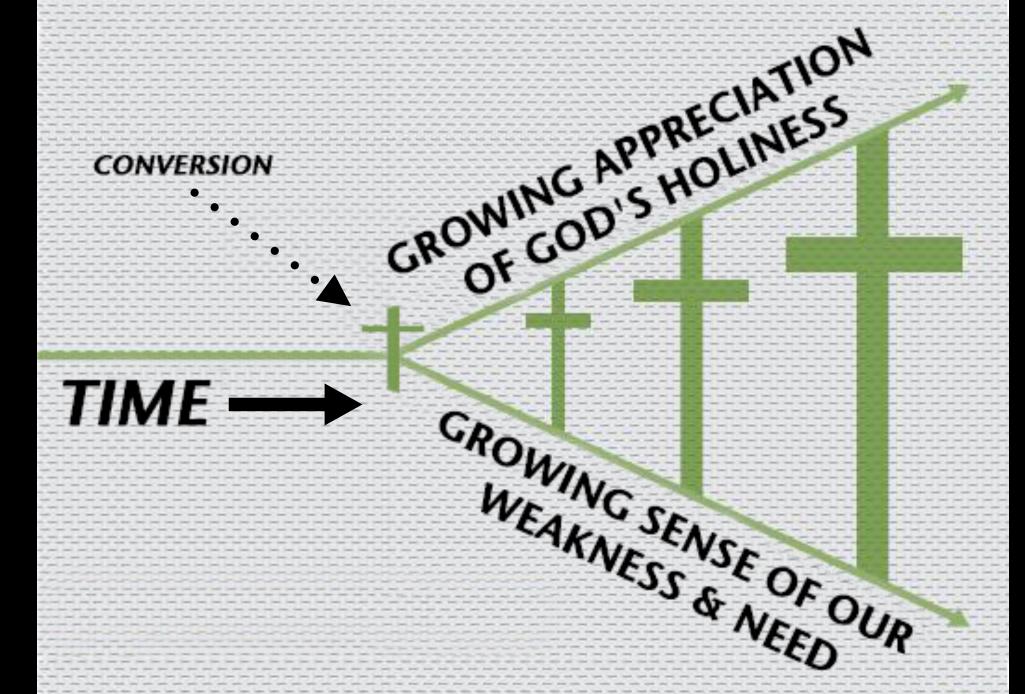
2.

When you talk about your life, what gets highlighted? "Your" accomplishments or God's work in and through you?

3.

In what areas of your life do you need to depend on God?





Depending on God

By Chuck Smith • June 12, 2008



We would do well to never forget our total dependence on God... If I have the resources to meet a particular challenge in life, my first impulse is to rely on those resources. If I am able to resort to my checkbook, it may not even occur to me to acknowledge my dependency on God. We can be certain that a day will come when a challenge, hardship or ordeal will come that demands of us resources we do not possess (Psalm 49:5-13).

Depending on God

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If we have not learned God's faithfulness in normal affairs of life, we are not likely to suddenly learn the calm assurance of faith when assailed by life's greatest tests and trials.

Dependence on God is not something we muster in emergencies; it is the realization that apart from His will we cannot presume even our next breath. Dependence sees God as being everything; presumption sees Him merely as a resource for dealing with crises.

https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/june-2008/depending-on-god/

Depending on God

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Dependence is an expression of faith; presumption is an act of pride (2 Chronicles 25:19; 26:16). Dependence is confidence in God. Dependence surrenders the need to control everything; presumption attempts to seize God's throne. Our dependence on God, like a branch's dependence on the vine, is the necessary connection with Him to guarantee a fruitful life (John 15:5, 8).

communion

