

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Benchmarks of Genuine Christian Spirituality (vv. 1-6)

- What to do with _____ experiences.
 - Too easily _____.
 - Too easily _____.
 - Too easily _____.
 - Too easily _____.

- Genuine Christian spirituality is based on things that are _____ (v.6).

Reimagining God's Power (vv. 7-10)

- A _____ sense of power.

- The _____ concept.

- Power in _____.

Life Enrichment

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- When you read or hear about people's charismatic (ecstatic) spiritual experiences are you most often inspired, encouraged, jealous, or do you walk away feeling substandard? Why?
- Why do you think Paul's opponents in Corinth used charismatic experiences (dreams, visions, revelations, etc.) to prove their ministries valid? Why do you think Paul shied away from sharing his charismatic experiences?
- Under what circumstances is it okay for us to share our spiritual experiences with others? When do you think we should refrain?
- Instead of using charismatic experiences, what does Paul suggest we use to evaluate whether our spirituality is genuine (v.6)?
- How does our world typically understand power? How is that different from power in the kingdom of God?
- Why do you think God allowed Paul's "thorn in the flesh?" How did the "thorn" help Paul?
- How does Paul's ongoing torment challenge the modern "gospel of health and happiness?"
- What should we do when God says "no" to our prayers for relieve from adversity? How do our weaknesses and God's power work together?