

Sufficient Grace and Proven Faith

12:1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know-God knows. 3 And I know that this man-whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows- 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may 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.

11 I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though I am nothing. 12 The **things that mark an apostle-signs, wonders and miracles**-were done among you with great perseverance. 13 How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

14 Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? 16 Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! 17 Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you? 18 I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course? 19 Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. 20 For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. 21 I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

13:1 This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." 2 I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, 3 since you are demanding proof (*dokimazo*) that Christ is speaking through me. **He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. 4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.**

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test (*dokimazo*) yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test (*adokimos*)? 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test (*adokimos*). 7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test (*dokimazo*) but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed (*adokimos*). 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. 10 This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority-**the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.**

11 Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints send their greetings. 14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

dokimazo (dok-im-ad'-zo); to test (literally or figuratively); by implication, to approve.

Marks Of An Apostle

Mark 16:14-20

14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

1. They would cast out demons; Acts 16:17-18
2. They would speak in other tongues; 1 Cor 14:18
3. They would take up serpents and would not be harmed; Acts 28:3-6
4. They would drink any deadly thing and no harm would come to them;
5. They would lay hands on the sick and the sick would recover. Acts 14:9 Acts 15:9 Acts 19:11-12

1 Cor 9:27

²⁷	allá ἀλλὰ <u>235</u> But	hupoopiázoo ὑπωπιάζω <u>5299</u> I keep under	mou μου <u>3450</u> my	tó τὸ <u>3588</u>	soóma σῶμα <u>4983</u> body,	kaí καὶ <u>2532</u> and	doulogoogó δουλαγωγῶ, <u>1396</u> bring it into subjection:
	meé-poos μή πως <u>3381</u> lest that by any means,	áλλοις ἄλλοις <u>243</u> to others,	keerúxas κηρύξας <u>2784</u> when I have preached	autós αὐτὸς <u>846</u> I myself	adókimos ἀδόκιμος <u>96</u> a castaway.		
	génoomai γένωμαι. <u>1096</u> should be						