

God's Training Program: Volition and Thinking

- 1. Elijah was sent by God to announce God's judgment on Israel to the pagan King Ahab.**

2. God then protected Elijah by sending him into the remote desert and provided for his needs.

3. God's protection also involved advanced training for the prophet, to prepare him for his future ministry in the N. Kingdom of Israel.

4. In the same way God protects every Church Age believer and takes them through a training process to prepare them for future ministry in the life on earth and future ministry to rule and reign with Christ.

God's Training Emphasizes Two Factors:

1. Volition

2. Right thinking

Phil 4:4–20 Emphasizes the Following

7 Imperatives

- **Rejoice (2×), 4:4**
- **Let your gentle attitude be known, 4:5**
- **Don't worry, 4:6**
- **Let your requests be made known to God, 4:6**
- **Think on these things, 4:8**
- **Practice these things, 4:9**

Phil 4:4–20 Emphasizes the Following

Results:

- **Peace of God protecting your soul, v. 7**
- **The God of peace will be with us, v. 9**
- **Surmount all circumstances through Christ, v. 13**

Phil 4:4–20 Emphasizes the Following

Thinking

- **Gentle, 4:5**
- **Hearts and minds are guarded, 4:7**
- **“Think” [meditate, concentrate] on these things, 4:9**
- **Learned, v. 9, 12 (2 different Greek words)**
- **Concerned (thoughtful), v. 10**
- **Knowing, v. 12 (2×), 15**

Phil 4:4–20 Emphasizes the Following

1 command related to discipline

Practice these things, v. 9



**Acts 9:5, “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’
And He said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are
persecuting,**

**Acts 9:6, ““but get up and enter the city, and it
will be told you what you must do.””**

Acts 9:7, “The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

Acts 9:8, “Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.”

**Acts 9:9, “And he was three days without sight,
and neither ate nor drank.”**

Acts 9:29, “And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic *Jews*; but they were attempting to put him to death.”

Acts 9:30, “But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.”

Acts 9:31, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”

2 Cor. 11:23, “Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

2 Cor. 11:24, “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.”

2 Cor. 11:25, “Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2 Cor. 11:26, “in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;”

2 Cor. 11:27, “in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

2 Cor. 11:28, “besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

Paul describes again that training he went through in those years before he came out of obscurity.

2 Cor. 11:32, “In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

2 Cor. 11:33, “but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”

2 Cor. 12:3, “And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—

2 Cor. 12:4, “was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”

**ἄρπάζω (*harpazō*), aor, pass, ind, 3s; snatch,
seize;**

2 Cor. 12:5, “On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to *my* weaknesses.”

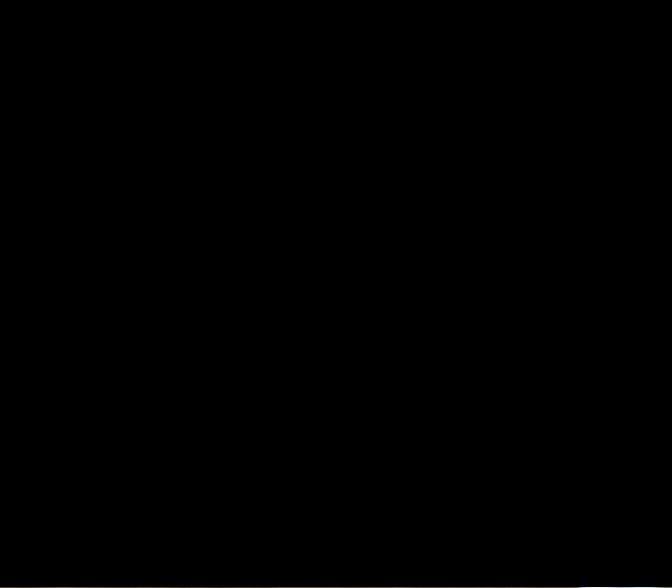
2 Cor. 12:6, “For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this*, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees *in* me or hears from me.”

2 Cor. 12:7, “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!”

2 Cor. 12:7, “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!”

σκόλοψ (*skolops*),
thorn, stake.





2 Cor. 12:8, “Concerning this I **implored** the Lord three times that it might leave me.”

παρακαλέω (*parakaleo*) aor
act ind 1 s “appeal, exhort,
encourage, implore”

2 Cor. 12:8, “Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it **might leave** me.”

ἀφίστημι (*aphistēmi*),
aor act subj, 3s,
purpose clause,
trans. cause to revolt, mislead;
intrans. go away, withdraw,
depart, fall away; ἀποστασία
(*apostasia*), rebellion,
abandonment, fall away, depart
from truth, defection

2 Cor. 12:9, “And He has said to me, ‘My grace is **sufficient** for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

ἀρκέω (*arkeō*), Pres Act Ind 3s;
be enough, suffice, be adequate;
pass. be satisfied or content with;
ἀρκετός (*arketos*), enough, sufficient,
adequate

2 Cor. 9:8, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all **sufficiency** in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”

- 1. Sufficiency means enough to meet the situation; enough to accomplish the task.**

2. Sufficiency may imply to some, barely enough, but God's grace throughout Scripture is always characterized by more than enough.

2 Cor 9:8, “And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.”

2 Cor 12:9, “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Pet 1:3, “as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

2 Cor. 12:10, “Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Conclusion: God's training program emphasizes volition and thinking.

Volition: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Thinking: What think ye of Christ?