

Wesley Wright

Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, September 20, 2026

2 Corinthians 11:28 — 2 Corinthians 12:2

Title: Caught up to the third heaven

**Paul refers to his weakness and stakes
his claim on the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:28-31).
Doing so magnified God's power
working within him.**

**Paul acutely understood where the
emphasis should be, and that's on the
God that he (and we) serve: 2
Corinthians 4:5-12**

**Remember that God's weakness, so to
speak, is stronger than any human
strength: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31**

**Paul mentioned an ordeal (2
Corinthians 11:32-33) that exemplified
his weakness, having barely escaped the
hands wicked Jews who sought to do
him harm: Acts 9:19-25**

Paul mentions boasting again (2 Corinthians 12:1) and being caught up to the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2). Paul doesn't specify what he heard, but evidently whatever it was strengthened him.

Jewish parlance recognized three separate places that they called heavens generally. First is the sky where animals are here in the earthly realm, then secondly what we call outer space, then the third is where God dwells.

**The first is where birds, rain, snow and
wind take place on the Earth.**

**Deuteronomy 11:8-12, Psalm 104:10-13,
Isaiah 55:10-11**

**The second is the sun, moon and other
round planets are: Genesis 1:14–17,
Psalm 8:1-5, Isaiah 13:9-10**

**The third is where our God dwells: 1
Kings 8:30-36, Psalm 33:13-15, Isaiah
66:1-2**

***1 Kings passage mentions the first
(8:35) and the third (8:30)**

**Where our God even right now is quite
different than the other “heavens” if you
will: 1 Timothy 6:13-17**

**God the Father exalted His Son above
the heavens: Hebrews 7:26-28**

**Being weak isn't always a good thing,
but in our case, that weakness that we
have should remind us about God's
power. All that we have, and that we do,
and all that we are is because of Him.**

**Resist the urge to boast and instead give
our God the glory for what He's doing
in our lives. Paul desired to do that, and
we should too.**

**The heavens is broader conceptually
than you might think, but make no
mistake — our citizenship is in Heaven
where the Lord dwells, not with stars or
planets or planes. He sits on His throne
high in heaven above all.**

You may wonder how can we know the man Paul mentioned is himself. Next week, we'll discuss how we know that, and why he referred to himself the way he did early in chapter 12.