



## **Twenty-Five Paradoxes of Scripture (2 Cor. 4:8-18)**

*A paradox is a statement which is opposed to common sense and **seems** to be contradictory (saying two opposite things). The Bible contains many such paradoxes, which at first might appear mind-baffling. The apparent contradiction is superficial. When the spiritual principle behind the supposed contradiction is understood, then it makes good sense. Consider these:*

1. We conquer by yielding and win by surrendering (Rom. 6:16-18).
2. We find rest under a yoke (Matt. 11:28-30).
3. We reign by serving (Matt. 10:42-44).
4. We are made great by becoming little (Luke 9:48).
5. We are made free by becoming His bondservants (Rom. 6:17-20; 8:2).
6. We love supremely One we have never seen (1 Pet. 1:8).
7. We live by dying (John 12:24-25; 2 Cor. 4:10-11).
8. The way up is the way down; the way down is the way up (Matt. 23:12).
9. Crucified yet living (Gal. 2:20).
10. Troubled but not distressed (2 Cor. 4:8).
11. Perplexed but not in despair (2 Cor. 4:8).
12. Persecuted but not forsaken (2 Cor. 4:9).
13. Cast down but not destroyed (2 Cor. 4:9).
14. Deceivers and yet true (2 Cor. 6:8).
15. Unknown yet well-known (2 Cor. 6:9).
16. Sorrowful yet always rejoicing (2 Cor. 6:10).
17. Poor yet making many rich (2 Cor. 6:10).
18. Having nothing, yet possessing all things (2 Cor. 6:10).
19. Riches coming out of poverty (2 Cor. 8:2).
20. Becoming rich through the poverty of Another (2 Cor. 8:9).
21. We are strongest when we are weakest and weakest when we are strongest (2 Cor. 12:9-10).
22. The key to the horizontal is the vertical (Psalm 127:1; Gal. 3:1-5; John 15:1-5).
23. We have the most after we have given the most away (Proverbs 11:24-25).
24. Suffering results in glory (Rom. 8:18-25; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).
25. To die is gain (Phil. 1:21).

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