

[2 Corinthians 12:16](#), did Paul use deception?

Short answer, no.

Long answer, no, and this is where context is important.

In the **same letter** of [2 Corinthians 4:2](#), where Paul explicitly condemns the use of deception.

[2 Corinthians 4:2](#) - but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in trickery nor distorting the word of God, but by the open proclamation of the truth commending ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God.

As for [2 Corinthians 12](#), the purpose of the chapter was the following:

Reluctant defense of his apostleship: Paul feels compelled to "boast" about his spiritual experiences and credentials, though he's uncomfortable doing so (verses [1-6](#)).

Humility in the face of divine revelations: Despite having extraordinary spiritual experiences, Paul emphasizes his weaknesses and the "thorn in the flesh" that keeps him humble (verses [7-10](#)).

God's strength in human weakness: Paul stresses that God's power is made perfect in weakness, and he finds strength in his own weaknesses and hardships (verses [9-10](#)).

Authenticity of his ministry: He points to the signs, wonders, and miracles performed among the Corinthians as evidence of his genuine apostleship (verse [12](#)).

Selfless love for the Corinthian church: Paul reminds them that he was not a financial burden and expresses his genuine love and concern for them, despite their lack of appreciation (verses [13-15](#)).

Defense against accusations: In verse [16](#), Paul addresses accusations of being crafty or deceitful, likely using sarcasm to refute these claims.