



1 Corinthians 1:1- *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:*

Paul opens this letter by clearly identifying himself as the author, establishing authority and accountability not for personal recognition, but to anchor what he is about to say in the calling of God. The context is important because Paul had already written to the Corinthians previously, and that earlier letter was corrective in nature. The church was dealing with serious issues such as strife and division, sexual immorality including incest, believers suing one another, and abuse of the Lord's Supper. Correction was necessary because disorder had entered the body. This letter, however, moves toward restoration and is more relational and pastoral. Paul will speak openly about suffering, weakness, reconciliation, generosity, and comfort.

Before doing so, Paul makes it clear that he was appointed by the will of God and not by man, which is why he opens many of his letters by affirming that his calling into the five-fold ministry was from God. Not everyone is called into one of the offices of the five-fold ministry (Eph 4:11), and it can be dangerous to place yourself into a position God has not assigned, because grace is always connected to calling. Those whom God appoints are given the grace to do what He has called them to do, while operating outside of that calling leads to striving instead of fruit (Jn 15:5).

It is also important to note that if a person's call is not within the five-fold ministry that does not diminish one's assignment or purpose in life. The hour and minute hand or more visible on a clock, but the seconds hand is equally important and vital to telling time.

Paul includes Timothy, calling him our brother, highlighting that Timothy was his most trusted companion and his true son in the faith. This shows us that ministry was never meant to be done alone, but in relationship with mentors and spiritual fathers who have gone before us. Scripture consistently shows this pattern, as Joshua had Moses and Elisha had Elijah.

Paul addresses the church of God to remind them that the church is not merely four walls of a building, but the Body of Christ itself. Believers must know who they are and the power they possess in Christ. When the church sits next to a sick person, is your mindset that you will get sick or that they will get healed? The life of God within us should be more contagious than the sickness on them.

Church is speaking of expansion which is written to us as well. Notice the term “church of God.” The church belongs to God—not to leaders, personalities, or movements. And every believer is called a **saint**, not based on performance, but on position in Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2- *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Before Paul becomes transparent about his own adversities, he first points to the source of empowerment, with peace as the result.

Grace is not merely a greeting; it is God’s enabling power at work in the believer. Peace flows from remaining within that grace. When peace is missing, it is often an indicator that we have stepped outside of grace and begun striving in our own strength rather than resting in what God has supplied in our born-again spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:3- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*

The word *comfort* in the Greek is *paraklēsis*, which means a calling near, a summons, especially for help.

This reveals that comfort is not merely relief from pain, but the experience of God drawing close and strengthening us. The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Comforter (John 14:16), yet many believers attempt to find comfort through the world’s systems—through drugs, food, distractions, or social media—rather than through divine fellowship. Paul is intentional when he says all comfort, not some. This tells us there is no lack or limitation in God’s supply. If we want to be plugged into all comfort, it begins with grace, which is not merely a concept but a Person and the source from which true comfort flows.

2 Corinthians 1:4- *who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

The word *comfort* is used four times in this single verse, emphasizing its importance. Paul is intentionally drawing attention to the sufficiency and consistency of God’s comfort. This letter is deeply relational and focused on restoration, and before Paul begins describing the tribulations he endured for answering God’s call on his life, he makes it clear that he was sustained and strengthened by God’s grace through it all.

Paul wants the Corinthians—and us—to understand that the comfort he received was not wasted. God comforts us so that we can become conduits of that same comfort to others. What we receive from God is meant to flow through us. This invites an honest examination of our own lives: what areas are we currently depending on for comfort that were never meant to sustain us?

What substitutes have we allowed—whether distractions, habits, or coping mechanisms—that need to be removed and replaced with God’s grace and His Word?

2 Corinthians 1:5- *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.*

The word *sufferings* is often taken out of context and used to imply that God desires His children to endure things He never intended for them. That is not a correct understanding of Scripture. The word *sufferings* is used more than one hundred times in the New Testament, and while believers are told that they will suffer with Christ (Col 1:29), we must clearly define what Christ actually suffered.

Jesus did not suffer sickness—He healed the sick. He did not suffer poverty—He had a treasurer, and Scripture tells us that money was stolen from the ministry, which means there was money to steal. He did not suffer depression—He was anointed with the oil of joy above His fellows (Ps 45:7). These things were not part of Jesus’ suffering, and therefore they are not something believers are called to embrace as God-ordained hardship.

The sufferings of Christ refer to persecution, rejection, opposition, and hardship that come as a result of preaching the gospel and living godly lives. Jesus endured suffering because of obedience to His calling, not because of sickness or lack. In the same way, believers who live godly lives will face resistance (2 Tim 3:12). Scripture is clear that those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution, not disease or defeat. But just as suffering abounds in this context, Paul reminds us that consolation through Christ abounds even more, ensuring that God’s grace, strength, and comfort always exceed the opposition we face.

There are three areas believers will suffer; the world, their flesh, and the devil.

2 Corinthians 1:6-*Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.*

Paul’s affliction did not come from disobedience or from being outside God’s will—it came because he obeyed God’s will. His suffering was the result of answering the call, not missing it.

Throughout Scripture, we see this pattern. David was anointed king and then hunted to be killed. Joseph was given dreams then drug into a pit. Again and again, we see people fully centered in God’s purpose while facing intense opposition. Being in the will of God does not exempt us from disruption—it often provokes it.

What keeps a believer enduring in these moments is grace and the understanding that God’s purposes are bigger than personal comfort. Jesus Himself endured the cross “for the joy set before Him”—the joy of restoring humanity back into relationship with the Father (Hebrews 12:2). His endurance was rooted in vision of reconciliation to us with the Father.

Paul's joy during persecution came from the same place. He kept his focus off himself. This is a key truth for anyone struggling with depression, discouragement, or dissatisfaction with life. When life becomes inward-focused, despair grows. When vision becomes outward-focused, strength returns.

Paul wrote "Rejoice in the Lord always" while sitting in prison, writing to encourage others while he himself was in chains (Philippians 4:4). His circumstances did not define his message—his calling did.

My intention in you reading this is not to fund your comfort. My goal is to make you uncomfortable because it is in that, that growth can occur.

2 Corinthians 1:7- *And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.*

Hope is biblical. It is not wishful thinking—it is a confident, positive expectation rooted in truth. Scripture itself is designed to produce both hope and comfort in the believer. As Paul writes, the Scriptures were given "that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

There is a saying in the military: *You will never rise to the level of your expectations; but you will fall to the level of your preparation.* Spiritually, this is true as well. We do not accidentally mature, nor do we drift into endurance, hope, or stability overnight.

We must become skillful in walking with the Holy Spirit—allowing Him to be our Comforter, learning to lean on His grace, and trusting the power of God at work within us. This kind of reliance is learned. It is cultivated through relationship, obedience, and practice. Growth in Christ is intention but is not automatic which is why you see people operating at varying degrees of faith.

Paul's confidence for the Corinthians was this: if they were sharing in the sufferings connected to Christ, they would also share in the consolation that comes from Christ. Grace always accompanies the call. There will never be a pressure without providing provision.

If you are suffering for Christ, you will also receive grace in Christ. God is faithful. He does not allow temptation, pressure, or testing beyond what you are able to bear—and He always provides a way through it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

2 Corinthians 1:8- *For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.*

The word *burdened* in this passage comes from the Greek word *bareō*, which means *to weigh down, to press heavily, or to depress*. Paul is not exalting defeat; he is describing the intensity of external pressure he faced while ministering the gospel.

The context of this passage is Paul's ministry in Ephesus. Ephesus was a powerful, wealthy city known for trade and influence, and it was a major center for the worship of Diana (Artemis). A large part of the city's economy depended on the sale of silver statues used in idol worship.

As Paul preached the gospel, people repented. They turned away from idols, and many openly destroyed them. This repentance didn't just change hearts—it disrupted the local economy. Those who profited from idol worship began to lose money, and as a result, Paul became the target of opposition and persecution. This resistance did not come because Paul was outside God's will, but because he was directly confronting darkness with truth.

Paul makes it clear that he does not want believers to be ignorant of this reality. When you step out in obedience, opposition can follow. Disruption will always come from intention. Paul later explains this principle when he says that a great and effective door had opened to him, *and there were many adversaries* (1 Corinthians 16:9).

2 Corinthians 1:9- *Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,*

Notice what Paul is clarifying here. His trust was not in himself, not in circumstances, not in people, and not in outcomes—but in God alone. The pressure he faced brought him to the end of self-reliance so that his confidence would rest fully in the One *who raises the dead*.

The NIV renders this idea with the emphasis that Paul had stopped relying on himself and had learned to rely completely on God. This wasn't despair producing unbelief; it was pressure producing alignment of trust.

Paul reinforces this elsewhere when he says, *"I know whom I have believed"* (2 Timothy 1:12). His faith was not anchored in a method, a formula, or a man—it was anchored in a Person. Likewise, in Colossians 1:29, Paul explains that he labors and strives according to God's power working mightily in him, not his own strength.

This is a vital principle: we should never lean on someone who is not big enough to deliver us, or on something that cannot provide adequate support. Anything other than God will eventually fail under pressure.

This brings us back to the very beginning of Paul's letter, where he opens with grace. Grace is not merely God's kindness—it is God's empowering presence within us. The grace of God is what enables us to endure hardship, to withstand pressure, and to remain steadfast when circumstances are beyond our natural strength.

Paul's message is clear: pressure exposes what we are trusting in. And when trust is fully placed in God, even a sentence of death cannot cancel His power.

2 Corinthians 1:10- *who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*

This verse reveals past, present, and future all in one statement. Paul is not speaking theoretically—he is describing a pattern of God’s faithfulness. God *delivered*, God *is delivering*, and God *will continue to deliver*. This aligns with God’s nature: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

Because Jesus does not change, the work He accomplished does not fluctuate. I believe deliverance has already occurred for the believer—not just spiritually, but regarding sickness, poverty, oppression, and depression. Scripture tells us that God “*has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (Colossians 1:13). That is past tense. It is finished.

Once a believer sees that they are already free and already delivered, they stop striving to get somewhere and begin living from where they already are. Faith is no longer a struggle to obtain; it becomes a response to what has already been provided. This is why Peter says that *all things that pertain to life and godliness have already been given to us* (2 Peter 1:3). The issue is not provision—it is appropriation.

It is much easier to realize you are free than to keep trying to get free. Striving belongs to those who believe freedom is future; rest belongs to those who see it as finished.

The word *deliver* in this passage comes from the Greek word *rhuomai*, which means *to rescue, to draw to oneself, to snatch out of danger*. It carries the idea of a decisive intervention, not a gradual escape. God didn’t merely assist us—He rescued us. And Paul’s confidence is clear: the same God who has rescued, and is rescuing, will continue to do so.

Deliverance is not something we are waiting on God to do again. It is something we learn to walk out because it has already been done.

2 Corinthians 1:11- *you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.*

Prayer is an essential part of the believer’s responsibility—not as a last resort, but as a **means of participation**. Paul shows us that prayer is not passive. He says they were *helping together* through prayer. In other words, prayer is a way believers actively cooperate with what God is doing.

Scripture gives us many examples where believers prayed together and breakthrough followed. When the early church lifted their voices in unity, boldness increased and the place where they were gathered was shaken (Acts 4:31). When Peter was imprisoned, the church prayed earnestly, and God intervened with supernatural deliverance (Acts 12). Corporate prayer repeatedly appears throughout scripture.

Paul also connects prayer to thanksgiving. As many participate in prayer, many will also participate in gratitude when the answer comes. This shows us that prayer is not only about the request—it is about shared faith, shared victory, and shared thanksgiving.

Prayer does not convince God to act; it aligns believers with what God is already willing and able to do. It positions the body of Christ to stand together, bear one another's burdens, and witness the grace of God made visible through answered prayer.

2 Corinthians 1:12- *For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.*

Our testimony begins with a clear conscience. The conscience testifies to what is right and wrong. When we do something wrong, our conscience bears witness to it.

Adam and Eve were not originally created with a conscience as we experience it today. They knew right and wrong through their relationship with God. When they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that knowledge became part of them.

The conscience can become hardened or seared, like with a hot iron. Paul describes man's rejection of God's truth in Romans 1. A conscience can be so corrupted that we become dull to the things of God.

In Acts 24:16, Paul says that he strives to maintain a clear conscience before both God and people. In 1 Timothy 1:19, Paul warns about those who rejected a good conscience and consequently suffered shipwreck concerning their faith. Instead of continuing to trust God, they turned to their own reasoning. We should not continually violate our conscience but walk in sincerity and simplicity before God. This violation occurs over time. It is small decisions of disobedience that ultimately led us away from God and in turn makes it hard for us to hear him.

Paul was being challenged by some believers in Corinth, so he defended his purpose and motives. His ministry was marked by sincerity, not self-promotion. He did not take offerings from the Corinthians and often worked to support himself. Paul trusted God in every situation.

Many times, we depend on people for things that we should be trusting God to provide. Paul's relationship with the Corinthians was unique; he chose not to receive financial support from them. The church at Philippi was different, and they partnered with him financially.

God's wisdom often runs contrary to the wisdom of this world. The world's approach to finances is to store up and protect resources, while God often calls us to give and send out what He has entrusted to us. The world repays evil for evil, but God commands otherwise (2 Peter 3:9). God's ways are different from our natural thinking.

Therefore, we must learn to trust God rather than relying solely on human wisdom, resources, or reasoning.

2 Corinthians 1:13- *For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end*

Paul's message was consistent with the Scriptures. He was not introducing his own ideas or personal philosophy. Everything he taught was in agreement with God's revealed Word. Even the prophets of the Old Testament pointed forward to the same salvation that Paul preached (1 Peter 1:10).

Paul could write a new letter without changing his message because truth does not change. Peter expressed the same idea when he wrote to remind believers of things they already knew (2 Peter 3:1). The message remained consistent because it came from God, not from man.

A mark of spiritual maturity is faithfulness over time. It is possible to begin well and yet fail to finish well. Many people start with excitement and zeal, but trials, distractions, and worldly thinking can pull them away from simple trust in God (Mark 4).

Paul's life demonstrated perseverance. Through suffering, opposition, and hardship, he continued to trust God and remain faithful to the message he had received. His conscience remained clear because he did not alter the truth to please people.

As believers, we are called to continue trusting God until the end. Our goal is not merely to start the race well but to finish it well (Acts 20:24) We must hold fast to God's Word, maintain a good conscience, and remain faithful to God regardless of circumstances.

2 Corinthians 1:14- (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The word "boast" in Greek is *kauchēma* and means "that of which one glories or can glory; a matter or ground of glorying." In this letter, Paul explains why he does not need a letter of recommendation. The changed lives of the Corinthians are the true testimony of his ministry.

Anytime I seek a mentor or coach in any area of my life, there are always three things I look for. First, do they have longevity of experience in that area? Second, have they accomplished or mastered what they are teaching? Lastly, have they produced others who have also succeeded?

In the area of finances, I do not take financial advice from people who are broke. Dr. Myles Munroe once shared that he was in a business class during his college years when the professor walked into the room and announced that he was going to teach the students how to become millionaires. The instructor was wearing worn-out shoes, had holes in his jeans, and drove an old Volkswagen to the university. Dr. Munroe immediately unenrolled and dropped the class.

It is one thing for someone to have wealth themselves, but do they have a proven track record of helping others achieve the same results? That is the true test of whether someone has something worth teaching.

2 Corinthians 1:15- And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit—

Paul's motive to visit wasn't just to take a trip. He has a true intention upon his arrival.

His confidence was not in himself but in the integrity of his ministry and his relationship with the Corinthians. Because he was confident in his motives and his love for them, he had originally planned to visit them before traveling to Macedonia and then visit them again on his return. This would have given them a "second benefit" or "second grace" (Greek: *charis*), referring to another opportunity to receive encouragement, teaching, and strengthening through his ministry.

2 Cor 1:16- *to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea*

Paul's original plan was to visit Corinth and spend time with the believers there. However, a previous visit had been painful, and when Paul changed his travel plans, some accused him of being unreliable or insincere.

Paul's decision not to come immediately was not because he had abandoned them. He was not saying "no" forever; he was saying "not yet." His timing was being directed by the Lord.

Throughout Scripture, we see that the Holy Spirit sometimes redirects or restrains God's servants. There are moments when God says, "Wait," even when our desire is to move forward. Often, He does not explain why. Our responsibility is not to understand every reason but to obey His leading.

The inward witness of the Holy Spirit is something believers must learn to follow. There may be situations where we feel ready and eager to proceed, yet the Lord knows things we cannot see and says, "Not now." His wisdom is greater than ours.

Paul's delay was actually for the benefit of the Corinthians. Waiting allowed time for correction, repentance, and restoration. What appeared to some as inconsistency was really an expression of wisdom and love.

The same principle applies to us. Sometimes God changes our plans. He may redirect our path, delay an opportunity, or close a door we expected to walk through. In those moments, we must trust that His guidance is for our good and often for the good of others as well.

Faith is not merely making plans for God; it is being willing to change those plans when God directs otherwise. Obedience requires trusting His wisdom even when we do not understand His reasons.

2 Corinthians 1:17- *Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No?*

Paul did not make decisions lightly or according to his own desires. He sought the Lord's direction and remained willing to adjust his plans when God led differently.

As believers, we should make plans, but we must also remain open to God's course corrections. Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." God's guidance is often discovered while we are walking in faith, not while we are standing still waiting for absolute certainty.

Some people become paralyzed by the fear of missing God's will. They are afraid to take any step because they might make a mistake. Yet Scripture teaches us to delight ourselves in the Lord and trust Him. As we spend time with Him, seek His Word, and desire to do His will, He is faithful to guide us.

The inward witness of the Holy Spirit becomes clearer as we walk with God. (Romans 8:14-16). There is often a settled knowing within when we are moving in the right direction. God is able to lead those whose hearts are submitted to Him.

Many struggles arise because people ignore the warnings God gives them. This is especially common in relationships. Sometimes there are obvious red flags, wise counsel from others, and an inward sense that something is not right. Yet people move forward anyway because their emotions are stronger than their willingness to obey God.

Often, when people sense that something is wrong, they accelerate the relationship rather than slowing down. Deep down they know they should wait, seek counsel, and allow time for evaluation, but instead they rush ahead. In doing so, they are trusting their own desires rather than trusting God.

A helpful principle is this: if something is truly from God, it can withstand examination, prayer, counsel, and time. God's will does not need to be rushed. If a decision cannot tolerate delay, wise evaluation, or accountability, that may indicate that the flesh is driving the process rather than the Spirit.

Faith also does not mean forcing open doors. Faith means trusting God enough to move when He says move and wait when He says wait. The Lord is faithful to guide those who genuinely desire to follow Him, and His peace will bear witness to the path He is directing.

1 Corinthians 1:18- *But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No.*

Our responsibility is to stay yielded, obedient, and teachable. God's responsibility is to lead. He is more committed to directing our lives than we are capable of directing them ourselves.

2 Corinthians 1:19- *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.*

Paul had previously preached Christ to those in Corinth. The message Paul preached was about the person of Jesus, not simply doctrine (Col. 1:28). Paul's intention in mentioning this was to reveal God's unchanging nature and how He is not one way one day and another the next. Basically, He could be trusted and so could the message that was carried to them (Titus 1:2).

2 Corinthians 1:20- *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

The Greek word translated "promise" is *epaggelia*, which carries the idea of an announcement, a pledge, or a message of good. Paul's point is that God is not someone who speaks one way and acts another. There is no inconsistency in Him. What He promises, He fulfills.

God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). His Word is completely trustworthy because His character is completely trustworthy. When God speaks, His words carry power and authority. Hebrews 1:3 declares that Christ upholds all things by the word of His power, and Hebrews 11:3 teaches that the worlds were framed by the Word of God. Creation itself stands as evidence of the power of God's spoken Word.

Because God is faithful to His Word, believers can confidently stand upon His promises. His "yes" remains yes. He does not change His mind because of circumstances, emotions, or human opposition.

This truth should also cause us to recognize the importance of our own words. Scripture repeatedly teaches that words can build up or tear down, bring life or bring harm.

Every believer should understand the power of their words. Many times, we believe our words are nothing more than casual but really, they are causing causalities.

2 Corinthians 1:21- *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,*

The Greek word translated "establish" is *bebaioō*, which means "to make firm," "to confirm," or "to make secure." Paul's point is that God Himself is the One who establishes believers in Christ.

The moment we are born again, we are placed into Jesus and made secure in our relationship with Him. Our standing before God is not based on our performance but on what Jesus has accomplished and God has established us in Him.

Paul goes on to say that God has also anointed us. Anointing in Scripture speaks of being set apart, empowered, and equipped by God for His purposes. This is not a future promise; it is a present reality for the believer. The anointing is something God has already provided.

First John 2:27 states that believers have received an anointing from God and that this anointing abides in them. The emphasis is not on striving to become anointed but on recognizing and walking in what God has already given.

Just as God established us in Christ, He has also equipped us through His Spirit. We do not live the Christian life through our own strength or ability. God has provided everything necessary for us to walk in fellowship with Him and fulfill His purposes.

The security of the believer rests in God's work, not man's effort. He has established us, anointed us, sealed us, and given us His Spirit. Because of this, we can live with confidence in what God has done rather than uncertainty about our own sufficiency.

2 Cor 1:22- *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

The anointing we receive does not come and go and is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). The word sealed in Greek is *sphragizō* and means sealed for security from Satan or in order to mark a person or a thing.

As believers, we are not left here to fin for ourselves (John 14:18). God has given us His very Spirit and the same anointing Jesus had when He walked His earthly ministry (Luke 4:14).

2 Corinthians 1:23- *Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth.*

In the context of Corinth, the church was already dealing with divisions and conflicts. Paul explains that it would actually be for their benefit that he did not come to them at that particular time. Although he had previously expressed his desire to visit, he later chose to delay his trip. This decision caused some to question his credibility and character, accusing him of being inconsistent or unreliable.

However, Paul's motive was not self-interest but love for the Corinthians. He understood that his immediate arrival could potentially create further conflict and division. By waiting, he was acting for their spiritual good rather than his own convenience.

There are times when the Holy Spirit directs us not to proceed with something we intend to do. Throughout Scripture, we see examples of God redirecting His servants or forbidding them from taking a particular course of action. While we may not always understand the reason, obedience is still required.

Many difficulties, frustrations, and unnecessary complications could be avoided if we were more sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There are times when we have a strong desire to move forward, yet the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we should pause, wait, or change direction (Romans 8:16).

God's guidance often comes through an inward witness—a settled knowing within our spirit. It may not always be dramatic or accompanied by a detailed explanation. Sometimes it is simply a lack of peace or a check within that causes us to stop and reconsider our course. Moreover, it will not likely be a burning bush that will hijack your attention.

Are you facing a decision today? Perhaps a move, a relationship, a ministry opportunity, or a career path has you seeking direction. As you move forward, remain sensitive to the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. If there is a persistent lack of peace, do not ignore it. Slow down, pray, seek wisdom, and allow the peace of Christ to rule in your heart (Colossians 3:15).

Like Paul, we should be willing to alter our plans when God directs us. What may appear to others as a change of course can actually be an act of wisdom, obedience, and love when it is led by the Spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 1:24- *Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.*

The apostle Paul describes himself as a fellow worker with the Corinthians. By doing so, he emphasizes that he is not above them or seeking to exercise control over their faith. His decision not to come at that particular time was not meant to hinder their spiritual growth or weaken their faith.

As we have seen throughout this passage, some in Corinth were questioning Paul's character, motives, and credibility. Because of the authority with which he taught, some may have assumed that Paul viewed himself as superior to them. However, Paul makes it clear that this was not the case.

Rather than lording authority over others, Paul saw himself as a servant of Christ and a fellow laborer in God's kingdom. His role was not to replace their relationship with God but to help strengthen and encourage their faith. The object of their faith was Christ, not Paul.

Paul understood that he was simply a vessel through whom God was working. His calling was to preach Christ and the kingdom, teach the truth, and present every believer mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28). The power was not in Paul himself but in the message he proclaimed.

This serves as an important reminder for every believer and especially for those in ministry. Spiritual leaders are not called to build dependence upon themselves but to point people to Christ. We are all fellow workers in God's field, serving different functions but ultimately laboring for the same purpose.

Paul's humility is evident in this passage. He did not seek to dominate the Corinthians but to serve them. His desire was that they would stand firm in their faith, not because of his presence, but because of their confidence in Christ.