

1 Corinthians 16:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

Analysis

Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear—Timothy, Paul's beloved protégé and "true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2), apparently traveled to Corinth via a circuitous route through Macedonia (Acts 19:22). Aphobōs (ἀφόβως, "without fear") suggests Timothy faced intimidation—perhaps due to his youth (1 Timothy 4:12), timid temperament (2 Timothy 1:7), or the Corinthians' disrespect for Paul's authority.

For he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do—Paul defends Timothy's apostolic credentials, insisting he performs *ergon kyriou* (ἔργον κυρίου, "the Lord's work") with the same authority as Paul himself. This strong endorsement aimed to prevent the faction-ridden Corinthians from despising Timothy as a mere subordinate. Legitimate Christian ministry derives authority from divine calling, not human charisma or credentials.

Historical Context

Timothy, a native of Lystra (Acts 16:1), joined Paul's team around AD 49 and became his most trusted coworker. His mother was Jewish, his father Greek, making him an ideal bridge between Jewish and Gentile Christianity. Paul's letters to Timothy (1 and 2 Timothy) reveal a young pastor struggling with timidity and health issues, yet entrusted with crucial apostolic responsibilities.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul need to defend Timothy's authority to the Corinthian church?
2. How should churches receive young or timid ministers who lack impressive natural qualifications?
3. What does Paul's phrase 'he works the Lord's work, as I also do' teach about equality of calling despite differences in gifting?

Interlinear Text

Ἐὰν	δὲ	ἔλθῃ	Τιμόθεος	βλέπετε	ἵνα	ἀφόβως	γένηται	
if	Now	come	Timotheus	see	that	without fear	he may be	
G1437	G1161	G2064	G5095	G991	G2443	G870	G1096	
πρὸς	ὑμᾶς·	τὸ	γὰρ	ἔργον	κυρίου	ἐργάζεται	ὥς	καὶ
with	you	G3588	for	the work	of the Lord	he worketh	as	also
G4314	G5209		G1063	G2041	G2962	G2038	G5613	G2532
ἐγώ								
I								
G1473								

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:58 (References Lord): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 16:21 (Parallel theme): Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (References Lord): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (Parallel theme): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

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