

1 Corinthians 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they have refreshed my spirit and your's: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

Analysis

For they have refreshed my spirit and your's—Anepausan to emon pneuma kai to hymōn (ἀνέπαυσαν τὸ ἐμὸν πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ ὑμῶν, "they refreshed my spirit and yours"). Anapauō (ἀναπαύω, "give rest, refresh") suggests restoration from weariness. Paul's spirit found rest through their fellowship and their report of Corinthian faithfulness in some areas. Remarkably, Paul says they also refreshed the Corinthians' spirit—perhaps by representing the congregation to Paul, healing the relational breach caused by distance and problems.

Therefore acknowledge ye them that are such—Epiginōskō (ἐπιγινώσκω, "recognize, acknowledge, appreciate"). The Corinthians should officially recognize and honor faithful servants. In a church valuing eloquence and charisma, Paul insists on honoring those who labor quietly—visiting, serving, representing, refreshing. Ministry involves both spectacular gifts (prophecy, tongues) and mundane faithfulness (traveling, reporting, encouraging).

Historical Context

The concept of "refreshing the spirit" reflects ancient hospitality culture, where receiving guests was sacred duty and providing rest to weary travelers was honored. Philemon 1:7 uses similar language: "For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother." Christian fellowship provided emotional and spiritual renewal in a hostile world.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'refresh someone's spirit,' and who in your life has done this for you?
2. Why does Paul emphasize that these men refreshed both his spirit and the Corinthians' spirit?
3. How can churches intentionally recognize and honor faithful servants who work behind the scenes?

Interlinear Text

ἀνέπαυσαν	γὰρ	τὸ	ἐμὸν	πνεῦμα	καὶ	τὸ	ὑμῶν
they have refreshed	For	G3588	my	spirit	and	G3588	yours
G373	G1063		G1699	G4151	G2532		G5216
ἐπιγινώσκετε	οὖν	τοὺς	τοιούτους				
acknowledge ye	therefore	G3588	them that are such				
G1921	G3767		G5108				

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:7 (Parallel theme): For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

2 Corinthians 7:13 (Spirit): Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

Colossians 4:8 (Parallel theme): Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

Proverbs 25:13 (Parallel theme): As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

Proverbs 25:25 (Parallel theme): As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

Romans 15:32 (Parallel theme): That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (Parallel theme): And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

Philemon 1:20 (Parallel theme): Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

3 John 1:4 (Parallel theme): I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.