

# 1 Corinthians 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

## Analysis

**Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.** The verb *ephysiōthēsan* (ἐψυσιώθησαν, "became puffed up") appears again (cf. v. 6), marking Corinthian arrogance. *Hōs mē erchomenou mou (ώς μὴ ἐρχομένου μου, "as if I were not coming")* reveals their presumption: assuming Paul wouldn't return, they felt emboldened to challenge his authority. Distance had bred contempt—his letters seemed weighty, but in-person presence weak (2 Cor 10:10).

This sets up the contrast in verses 19-21. The troublemakers assumed Paul's absence meant impunity, allowing them to spread dissent. Their arrogance (*physiōsis*) manifested in dismissing Paul's authority, questioning his apostleship, and fostering factionalism. Paul's response combines paternal patience (sending Timothy first) with firm warning—he will come, and will address not just words but spiritual power behind those words.

## Historical Context

Ancient correspondence took weeks or months; personal visits were rare and expensive. Paul's apostolic itinerary depended on missionary circumstances, travel conditions, and divine guidance. The Corinthians' geographical distance (Corinth in Greece, Paul in Ephesus in Asia Minor) and time lag since his founding visit (Acts 18:1-18) may have emboldened opponents to challenge his authority, assuming he wouldn't or couldn't return to confront them personally.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does physical or emotional distance from spiritual authority tempt you toward arrogance or rebellion?
2. How do you respond when leaders you respect can't immediately address your situation—with patient trust or with dismissive independence?
3. What 'puffed up' attitudes or behaviors might you hide when authority figures are present but indulge when they're absent?

## Interlinear Text

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ὡς μὴ ἐρχομένου δέ μοι πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐφυσιώθησάν<sup>τινες</sup>  
as though not come Now I to you are puffed up  
G5613 G3361 G2064 G1161 G3450 G4314 G5209 G5448

τινες.

some  
G5100

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 5:2** (Parallel theme): And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.