

# 1 Corinthians 7:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

## Analysis

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**But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment**—Paul gives personal counsel that widows are makariōtera (μακαριωτέρα, "more blessed/happier") remaining single. The phrase kata tēn emēn gnōmēn (κατὰ τὴν ἐμὴν γνώμην, "according to my judgment") echoes verse 25, distinguishing apostolic counsel from dominical command. Paul's opinion carries authority but is not prescriptive.

Paul concludes: **and I think also that I have the Spirit of God** (dokō de kagō pneuma theou echein, δοκῶ δὲ κἀγὼ πνεῦμα θεοῦ ἔχειν). This is not uncertain humility but confident assertion: "I too have the Spirit." Paul claims his counsel is Spirit-inspired, matching the authority of those in Corinth claiming spiritual superiority. His teaching on singleness reflects divine wisdom, not merely human opinion.

This verse concludes Paul's extended treatment of marriage and singleness (chapter 7). His message throughout: both callings are good gifts, marriage is permanent and honorable, singleness offers practical advantages for ministry, and believers should remain content in their calling while serving God with undivided devotion.

## Historical Context

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Paul's appeal to having the Spirit responds to Corinthian pneumatics who claimed superior spiritual insight. His teaching on marriage and singleness comes with

apostolic authority, not as legalistic requirement but Spirit-guided wisdom for serving Christ faithfully in urgent times.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's claim to "have the Spirit" establish authority for his teaching without creating legalistic requirements?
2. Why does Paul think widows are "happier" remaining single—what advantages does he have in mind?
3. How do Paul's counsel and Christ's commands work together to guide believers in marriage and singleness?

## Interlinear Text

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μακαριωτέρα δὲ ἐστιν ἐὰν οὕτως μείνῃ κατὰ τὴν

**happier** **But** **she is** **if** **so** **abide** **after** **G3588**  
G3107 G1161 G2076 G1437 G3779 G3306 G2596

ἐμὴν γνώμην· δοκῶ δὲ κάγῳ πνεῦμα θεοῦ ἔχειν

**my** **judgment** **I think** **But** **also** **the Spirit** **of God** **that I have**  
G1699 G1106 G1380 G1161 G2504 G4151 G2316 G2192