

1 Thessalonians 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

Analysis

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith—dia touto parekl ēthēmen, adelphoi, eph' hymin epi pasē tē anankē kai thlipsei hēmōn dia tēs hymōn pisteōs (διὰ τοῦτο παρεκλήθημεν, ἀδελφοί, ἐφ' ὑμῖν ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ ἀνάγκῃ καὶ θλίψει ἡμῶν διὰ τῆς ὑμῶν πίστεως, 'therefore we were comforted, brothers, over you in all our necessity and affliction through your faith'). Ananke (ἀνάγκη, 'necessity/distress/constraint') and thipsis (θλίψις, 'tribulation/pressure') describe Paul's ongoing suffering. Yet the Thessalonians' persevering faith brought paraklēsis (παράκλησις, 'comfort/encouragement').

This reveals spiritual reciprocity: Paul strengthened the Thessalonians (v. 2); their faith strengthened him. Suffering believers comfort each other (2 Cor 1:3-7). The phrase dia tēs hymōn pisteōs ('through your faith') indicates means—their faith was the instrument of Paul's comfort. Why? Because persevering faith vindicated his ministry, proved God's electing grace, demonstrated the Spirit's power, and ensured they would share future glory. Fruitful ministry produces joy that transcends present suffering; knowing spiritual children walk in truth brings no greater joy (3 John 4).

Historical Context

Paul faced 'affliction and distress' in Corinth (where he wrote this letter): opposition from Jews (Acts 18:6, 12-17), anxiety about the Thessalonians, financial

pressure (working as tentmaker, Acts 18:3), and spiritual warfare. Timothy's good news that the Thessalonians persevered despite persecution brought comfort exceeding his circumstances' difficulty. This pattern continues throughout church history—believers' faithfulness under trial encourages other suffering saints. The universal church's mutual encouragement demonstrates Christ's body functioning as designed (1 Cor 12:26; Heb 10:24-25).

Related Passages

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

1. How does other believers' persevering faith comfort you in your own afflictions and distress?
2. What evidence demonstrates spiritual reciprocity in your relationships—mutual strengthening rather than one-way ministry?
3. Why does Paul find greater comfort in the Thessalonians' faith than in improved circumstances? What does this teach about ultimate values?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	τοῦτο	παρεκλήθημεν	ἀδελφοί	ἐπὶ	ὑμῖν	ἐπὶ	πάσῃ
Therefore	G5124	we were comforted	brethren	in	you	in	all
G1223		G3870	G80	G1909	G5213	G1909	G3956
τῇ	θλίψει	καὶ	ἀνάγκῃ	ἡμῶν	διὰ	τῆς	ὑμῶν
G3588	affliction	and	distress	our	Therefore	G3588	your
G2347		G2532	G318	G2257	G1223		G4102

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:4 (Parallel theme): Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2 John 1:4 (Parallel theme): I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

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