

2 Corinthians 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

Analysis

Not for that we have dominion over your faith (Οὐχ ὅτι κυριεύομεν ὑμῶν)—kyrieuomen (κυριεύομεν, "we lord over/exercise dominion") negates hierarchical control. Paul refuses spiritual tyranny—he doesn't manipulate Corinthian consciences. Tēs pisteōs (τῆς πίστεως, "the faith") is each believer's personal trust in Christ, not subject to apostolic coercion.

But are helpers of your joy (συνεργοί ἐσμεν τῆς χαρᾶς)—synergoi (συνεργοί, "fellow workers/co-laborers") shifts from dominion to partnership. Paul's role: facilitate joy chara (χαρᾶς), not enforce compliance. **For by faith ye stand**—perfect hestēkate (ἔστηκατε, "you have stood and continue standing") shows settled stability. Their standing rests on faith, not apostolic authority.

Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do I seek to 'lord over' others' faith through manipulation, or am I genuinely a 'helper of joy'?
2. How does recognizing people 'stand by faith' free me from unhealthy spiritual responsibility?
3. What leader models 'helper of your joy' rather than dominion—how can I imitate that?

Interlinear Text

οὐχ	ὅτι	κυριεύομεν	ὑμῶν·	τῆς	πίστει	ἀλλὰ
Not	for that	we have dominion over	of your	G3588	by faith	but
G3756	G3754	G2961	G5216		G4102	G235

συνεργοί	ἐσμεν	τῆς	χαρᾶς	ὑμῶν·	τῇ	γὰρ	πίστει
helpers	are	G3588	joy	of your	G3588	for	by faith
G4904	G2070		G5479	G5216		G1063	G4102

ἐστήκατε

ye stand

G2476

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1 Peter 5:3 (Parallel theme): Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

Romans 11:20 (Faith): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Romans 5:2 (Faith): By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Matthew 24:49 (Parallel theme): And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

2 Corinthians 5:7 (Faith): (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2 Corinthians 4:5 (Parallel theme): For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Romans 1:12 (Faith): That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

1 Corinthians 3:5 (Faith): Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?