

2 Corinthians 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

Analysis

I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?

Paul specifies: Titus (who delivered the "severe letter," 7:6-7, and organized the Jerusalem collection, 8:6, 16-17) and an unnamed **brother** (possibly Luke or another trusted co-worker). The rhetorical question **Did Titus make a gain of you?** expects the answer: "Of course not!" The Corinthians knew Titus's character—he hadn't exploited them financially.

Then Paul draws the logical conclusion: **walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?** The Greek pneumati (πνεύματι, "spirit") could mean disposition/attitude or the Holy Spirit—probably both. Paul, Titus, and the brother shared the same Spirit-produced character and literally walked in the same behavioral patterns (ichnein, ἵχνεσιν, "footsteps," "tracks"). If Titus was trustworthy, Paul was trustworthy—same spirit, same steps.

This verse models ministry integrity through shared character among co-workers. Paul doesn't have one standard for himself and another for delegates; they all walk in synchronized Christlikeness. Consistent team character validates individual character.

Historical Context

Titus was Paul's trusted delegate (2 Corinthians 2:13, 7:6-7, 8:6), sent to Corinth multiple times. The Corinthians had direct, recent experience with Titus's ministry and character—fresh evidence of integrity that Paul could appeal to. The unnamed "brother" (8:18, 22 suggests possibly two brothers) provided additional witnesses, fulfilling the biblical principle of multiple testimony (Deuteronomy 19:15).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does "same spirit, same steps" define team ministry—not just shared mission but shared character walking in synchronized Christlikeness?
2. What does Paul's logical argument (Titus was trustworthy; we walk in same steps; therefore I'm trustworthy) teach about evaluating leaders through their associates?
3. Why is it pastorally significant that Paul appeals to the Corinthians' recent experience with Titus rather than ancient history or abstract principles?

Interlinear Text

παρεκάλεσα Τίτος καὶ συναπέστειλα τὸν ἀδελφόν· μή

I desired Titus and with him I sent a brother μή
G3870 G5103 G2532 G4882 G3588 G3361
G80

τι ἐπλεονέκτησεν ὑμᾶς Τίτος οὐ τῷ αὐτοῖς πνεύματι

τι Did of you Titus not in the same spirit
G5100 G4122 G5209 G5103 G3756 G846 G4151

περιεπατήσαμεν οὐ τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἵχνεσιν

walked we not in the same steps
G4043 G3756 G3588 G846 G2487

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 8:6 (Parallel theme): Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

Romans 4:12 (Parallel theme): And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

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