

2 Corinthians 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

Analysis

I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother—The phrase eschēka anesin tō pneumati mou (ἐσχῆκα ἀνεσίν τῷ πνεύματί μου, "I had no rest in my spirit") reveals Paul's inner turmoil. The term anesis (ἀνεσίς, "rest, relief, relaxation") suggests Paul was emotionally unable to capitalize on Troas's opportunities. His reference to Titon ton adelphon mou (Τίτον τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, "Titus my brother") emphasizes their close partnership—Titus was the bearer of the severe letter, and Paul anxiously awaited news of Corinth's response.

But taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia—Paul abandons the open door in Troas to find Titus in Macedonia. This decision reveals authentic humanity—even apostles experience anxiety that affects ministry capacity. Paul's vulnerability here encourages contemporary ministers: spiritual effectiveness requires emotional and relational health. Sometimes the wisest decision is leaving fruitful ministry to resolve relational crisis. Paul eventually found Titus in Macedonia with good news (2 Cor 7:5-7).

Historical Context

Travel in the ancient Mediterranean was slow and uncertain. Titus would have traveled by foot and ship, with no way to send quick updates. Paul's anxiety reflects the practical difficulties of first-century communication. His decision to

abandon Troas to find Titus shows how communication limitations shaped apostolic ministry.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's emotional transparency about anxiety encourage honesty in ministry?
2. When is it appropriate to step back from ministry opportunities due to personal limitations?
3. What does Paul's relationship with Titus teach about the importance of ministry partnerships?

Interlinear Text

οὐκ	ἔσχηκα	ἀνεσιν	τῷ	πνεύματί	μου	τῷ	μὴ	εὑρεῖν
no	I had	rest	G3588	spirit	in my	G3588	not	found
G3756	G2192	G425		G4151	G3450		G3361	G2147
με	Τίτον	τὸν	ἀδελφόν	μου	ἀλλὰ	ἀποταξάμενος		
because I	Titus	G3588	brother	in my	but	taking my leave		
G3165	G5103		G80	G3450	G235		G657	
αὐτοῖς	ἐξῆλθον		εἰς	Μακεδονίαν				
of them	I went from thence		into	Macedonia				
G846	G1831		G1519	G3109				

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 12:18 (Spirit): 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?

2 Corinthians 8:16 (Parallel theme): But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

2 Corinthians 8:23 (Parallel theme): Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

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.

Galatians 2:3 (Parallel theme): But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

Galatians 2:1 (Parallel theme): Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Titus 1:4 (Parallel theme): To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.