

2 Corinthians 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Analysis

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written (echontes de to auto pneuma tēs pisteōs kata to gegrammenon, ἔχοντες δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως κατὰ τὸ γεγραμμένον)—Paul quotes Psalm 116:10 (LXX 115:1), linking his ministry to the Psalmist's testimony amid suffering. Pneuma tēs pisteōs (πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως, 'spirit of faith') is not the Holy Spirit per se but the disposition or attitude of faith that both Psalmist and Apostle share.

I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak (Episteusa, dio elalēsa, kai hēmeis pisteuomen, dio kai laloumen, Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν)—faith compels speech. Paul cannot be silent about what he believes. This is the prophetic imperative: belief demands testimony regardless of consequences (Jer 20:9, Acts 4:20). Speaking flows from believing; authentic witness is overflow, not performance.

Historical Context

Psalm 116 describes distress, near-death experience, and God's deliverance—a perfect parallel to Paul's situation. By quoting it, Paul places himself in Israel's scriptural tradition of suffering-yet-faithful servants. This also answers critics who questioned why he preached if it brought such suffering: he cannot help but speak what he believes, just as the Psalmist couldn't remain silent.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Is your Christian speech primarily overflow of genuine belief or performance of religious duty?
2. What truths about God do you believe so deeply that you cannot help but speak them, regardless of cost?
3. How does the Psalmist and Paul's pattern of 'I believed therefore I spoke' challenge silent Christianity that believes privately but speaks timidly?

Interlinear Text

ἔχοντες	δὲ	τὸ	αὐτὸ	πνεῦμα	τῆς	πίστεως	κατὰ
We having	G1161	G3588	the same	spirit	G3588	of faith	according as
	G2192		G846	G4151		G4102	G2596
τὸ	γεγραμμένον	πιστεύομεν		διὸ	λαλοῦμεν	καὶ	
G3588	it is written	G1125		G4100		G2980	G2532
				G1352			
ἡμεῖς	πιστεύομεν		διὸ	καὶ	λαλοῦμεν		
we	I believed		and therefore	also	have I spoken	also	
G2249	G4100		G1352	G2532	G2980	G2532	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:10 (Faith): I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

2 Corinthians 3:12 (Parallel theme): Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

Proverbs 21:28 (Parallel theme): A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

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 12:9 (Faith): To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

Acts 15:11 (Faith): But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

2 Peter 1:1 (Faith): Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org