

2 Corinthians 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

Analysis

I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things—Chairō hoti en panti tharrō en hymin (χαίρω ὅτι ἐν παντὶ θαρρῶ ἐν ὑμῖν, "I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you"). Tharreō (θαρρέω, "to be confident/courageous") appears in 5:6, 8 regarding confidence before God. Here Paul expresses restored confidence in the Corinthians after their repentance. En panti (ἐν παντί, "in everything/in all things")—not partial but comprehensive trust.

This verse concludes the emotional arc of chapters 1-7: from Paul's anguish (2:1-4), anxiety (2:13, 7:5), and severe letter (7:8), through Titus's report (7:6-7), to vindicated joy (7:9-13) and restored confidence (7:16). The chapter models pastoral ministry: confronting sin courageously, enduring anxiety faithfully, rejoicing in repentance genuinely, and restoring relationship fully. Paul's 'confidence in all things' isn't naivety—it's eschatological hope grounded in God's transforming work. The Corinthians proved that even deeply compromised churches can repent and return to gospel faithfulness.

Historical Context

Paul's restored confidence positioned him to address the Jerusalem collection (chapters 8-9) and confront remaining opposition (chapters 10-13). The successful reconciliation validated his apostolic authority and methodology: truth spoken in love, discipline exercised in hope, patience with process, joy in repentance. This concluding verse transitions from defensive apologetics (chapters 1-7) to constructive exhortation (chapters 8-13).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Paul's journey from anxiety to confidence teach about persevering through relational conflict in ministry?
2. How quickly do I restore full confidence to those who have genuinely repented, or do I withhold trust as punishment?
3. What would it look like for my church to demonstrate the kind of comprehensive repentance that restored Paul's confidence 'in all things'?

Interlinear Text

χαίρω	ὅτι	ἐν	παντὶ	θαρόρῳ	ἐν	ὑμῖν
I rejoice	therefore that	in	all	I have confidence	in	you
G5463	G3754	G1722	G3956	G2292	G1722	G5213

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 2:3 (Parallel theme): And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.