

2 Corinthians 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

Analysis

Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you— Pollē moi parrēsia pros hymas (πολλή μοι παρρησία πρὸς ὑμᾶς, "great is my frank speech toward you"). Parrēsia (παρρησία) means bold, free, fearless speech—a democratic virtue in Athens. Kauchēsis (καύχησις, "boasting/glorying") typically has negative connotations in Paul (fleshly boasting), but here it's justified confidence in God's work in the Corinthians.

I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation— Replērōmai tē paraklēsei (πεπλήρωμαι τῇ παρακλήσει, "I have been filled with comfort"). The perfect tense indicates completed action with ongoing results—Titus's report produced lasting consolation. Hyperperisseuomai tē chara (ὑπερπερισσεύομαι τῇ χαρᾷ, "I superabound with joy") is an intensified compound: joy overflowing beyond measure. Remarkably, this occurs epi pasē tē thlipsei hēmōn (ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ θλίψει ἡμῶν, "in all our affliction")—external hardship cannot extinguish joy rooted in spiritual fruit.

Historical Context

Paul wrote from Macedonia (v. 5) after fleeing Ephesus following the riot (Acts 19:23-20:1). He experienced both physical danger and emotional anguish over Corinth's response to his letter. Titus's arrival with good news (vv. 6-7)

transformed Paul's circumstances from despair to joy—not by removing external tribulation but by confirming internal spiritual victory.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How can I cultivate 'boldness of speech' with fellow believers without sacrificing love and humility?
2. What does Paul's ability to 'superabound in joy' during affliction reveal about the source and nature of Christian joy?
3. When I face criticism or conflict in ministry, do I find consolation in people's spiritual progress or in vindication of my reputation?

Interlinear Text

πολλή μοι παρρησία πρὸς ὑμᾶς πολλή μοι
Great is my boldness of speech toward you Great is my
G4183 G3427 G3954 G4314 G5209 G4183 G3427

καύχησις ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν· πεπλήρωμαι τῇ παρακλήσει
glorying of you I am filled with comfort
G2746 G5228 G5216 G4137 G3588 G3874

ὑπερπερισσεύομαι τῇ χαρᾷ ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ θλίψει ἡμῶν
I am exceeding joyful in all tribulation our
G5248 G3588 G5479 G1909 G3956 G3588 G2347 G2257

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:4 (Parallel theme): Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

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

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

1 Corinthians 1:4 (Parallel theme): I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

James 1:2 (Parallel theme): My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.